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SPASTICS NEWS

NOVEMBER 1967

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY MAGAZINE

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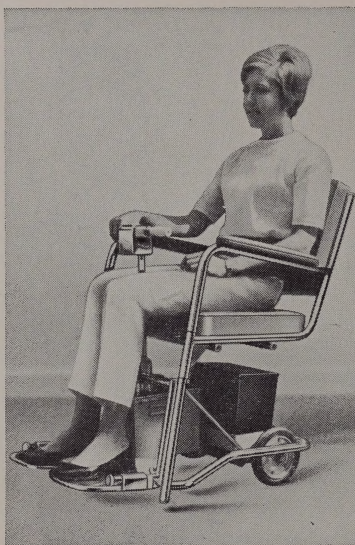
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SPASTICS NEWS

NOVEMBER 1967

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The magazine of The Spastics Society

Editor: Oliver Beckett

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

12 Park Crescent, London, W.1

Tel. 636 5020 (S.T.D. 01-636 5020)



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Front Cover Picture

Viewing the Workshop at Buxton: (L. to R.) Mr. C. G. Dumond, President of the Jersey Group, Mr. D. H. Simpson, the Warden, Dr. Sylvia Guthrie, Lady Le Masurier, Sir Robert Le Masurier Bailiff of Jersey, Mr. J. A. Loring, Director of the Spastics Society and Mr. A. W. Filleul, Hon. Sec. Jersey Society

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EDUCATION SEMINAR

University College, Oxford

16th—22nd April, 1968

Teaching and Training the Sub-Normal Child with special reference to Cerebral Palsy

The Seminar will be organised as a study course for teachers of the sub-normal child. Therapists and others with a particular interest in the subject, such as supervisors and staffs of Training Centres and psychologists particularly concerned with the assessment of children of this sort will also be eligible to join.

The Seminar will consist of a Faculty of Lecturers and several small study groups. The principal subjects will be:

- (a) the teaching of numbers
- (b) reading problems
- (c) language and hearing
- (d) vision and perception
- (e) craft work with sub-normal children
- (f) music, movement and play
- (g) social competence
- (h) vocational guidance.

Participation in this Seminar will be limited to 100 people and will be by invitation only. The cost per delegate, including board and lodging, will be £20. If you would like to be invited please apply stating name, address, academic qualifications and details of present employment to:

Miss A. S. Hunt, B.A.
Conference Officer
The Spastics Society
12 Park Crescent
London W.1

'A Vast Potential'

Mr. W. A. Burn, Chairman of the Spastics Society, urges support for the Spastic League Club

OUR expansion has been halted. How can we get it started again—and how soon?

This is, in essence, the problem which faces all of us who are concerned with helping spastics.

The national Society and its affiliated local Groups must develop fund-raising activities on a greater scale than ever before and increase our total income. Plans are afoot to do this, but the times are difficult. Many areas are affected by unemployment, the high cost of living and other factors. An ever-increasing number of worthy causes are competing for a share of the public purse.

In addition to our numerous appeals activities at National, Regional and Local Group levels there is one new way in which I believe we can tackle the problem with the hope of spectacular results and that is by a greater support of the competitions run in conjunction with 'The Friends of Spastics League'.

I do not think it is generally realised that in the past ten years about £14 million has been donated to help spastics as a direct result of the activities of Regional Pool Promotions of Bristol. Latterly we have been receiving more than half of our income from this source.

The recent High Court decision affirming that both the Pool and the Club subscriptions are subject to Pool betting duty has not only meant a significant reduction in the Society's income but has affected the membership of the Pool and the Club by depriving them of some of the money used to expand and make it attractive through prizes, gifts and other benefits. The membership has therefore fallen off although it is still, of course, very substantial indeed.

At this particular time I believe we can halt this decline and in fact transform it into expansion. This can be achieved very successfully by a concerted effort of the affiliated Groups of the Society and its individual supporters throughout the country. Briefly, this can be achieved in two ways:

- (1) by the individual supporters of the Society, who have not done so already, joining the Spastic League Club: this they can do by writing direct to:

Spastic League Club,
P.O. Box 215,
104 Stokes Croft,
Bristol, 1;

- (2) by Groups becoming supervisors and members becoming collectors for the Club. Regional Officers have full details about how such a scheme would work. Please get in touch with your Regional Officer urgently.

In these ways not only can we help the Pool to expand and help us through the normal contribution to the Society's funds, but by the last method Groups can raise useful sums of money through the commission which will be paid directly to them.

We have over 150 Groups throughout the country. If each obtained an additional 500 members for 'The Spastic League Club' the membership would be up by 75,000, and a result of this nature would be a big step forward and would increase the income of each Group concerned by £270, or £40,500 in total. If each Group obtained an additional 5,000 members then the increase in annual income would be £2,700, or £405,000 in total. Remember we must help The Spastic League Club to help us.

Many of us have helped in the past but we have never really used our resources to get behind it in a big way. I believe there is a vast potential here—a fund-raising opportunity not available to other organisations, and I am relying on all Groups to use it to the full.

THE SPASTIC POOL—

How it Works

by A. M. Frank, C.R.O.

THE ORGANISATION at Bristol is complex and it is impossible to describe it fully in the space available. I hope that what I have written below will give a sufficiently clear picture of its basic working.

A member pays 1s. a week for each card in respect of each card he or she holds. This shilling is divided in three ways so that, in a four-week cycle, 6d. goes as a donation to the Friends of Spastics League, 2s. 6d. as a subscription to the Spastic League Club, and 1s. as stake money in the Weekly Football Pool Competition.

The Trustees of the Friends of Spastics League pass to the Spastics Society almost all the money they receive.

REAL BENEFITS

The Spastic League Club now provides the following benefits to its members:—

- (a) Participation in the weekly 'Merit Competitions'
- (b) Participation in the Goodwill Gift Scheme (all members qualify for a gift within a cycle which takes 3 to 4 years to complete)
- (c) Life Assurance against death from any accidental cause
- (d) Participation in any bonus Competitions which may be announced from time to time (and its Management Committee is sifting new ideas for benefits all the time).

The Weekly Football Competition is based on a forecast of results and its structure has been designed to produce a large number of dividends rather than a few astronomical ones.

Regional Pool Promotions Ltd. has the task of gathering in all these weekly shillings, remitting them to Bristol and keeping exact records of payments—hence the need for collectors and supervisors.

The weekly one shillings have to be collected and remitted to Bristol and exact records have to be kept of them—hence the need for Collectors and Supervisors. By way of payment for their work they receive commission on the money they collect—a method which has proved more effective and economical than by direct mailing between the Pools Organisation and members with its high postal and other overhead costs.

Collectors receive a weekly commission of 1½d. on each 1s. collected; Supervisors receive a lesser and varying sum, but Regional Pool Promotions Ltd. have

(Continued overleaf)

how the Groups can help the Pools— and vice-versa (Cont'd)

agreed that where Local Groups take on a supervision, their weekly supervisory commission will be 1d. per 1s. collected.

Thus the gross annual income which can accrue to a Group where the work of collecting and supervising is undertaken voluntarily by its members or helpers will be:

$$(1\frac{1}{2}\text{d.} + 1\text{d.}) \times \text{the total number of weekly shillings collected during the year.}$$

As the Chairman has already pointed out, this can mean earnings from commission of as much as £2,700 p.a. for a supervision of 5,000 cards.

The net profit will, of course, be slightly less as there will be some administrative expenses to be met—but these should not amount to much and can be kept minimal with efficient organisation. Commission and dividend bonuses are returnable for Income Tax purposes, but arrangements can be made with the local Tax Office where these benefits are made over to a Group.

SUPERVISORS' MAIN DUTIES

The main supervisory duties are:—

1. To appoint new collectors, increase membership and promote the competitions in general. (R.P.P. Ltd. will help in canvassing for new members.)
2. To distribute weekly stationery to collectors (weekly bulletins for winners, remittance forms, etc.), and to collect, check and pass on to Bristol the weekly returns and remittances from collectors.
3. To maintain a complete record of membership amended weekly from collectors' information.
4. To deal with routine enquiries.

COLLECTORS' TASKS AND BENEFITS

The collectors' primary tasks are to find new members, to collect the 1s. weekly subscriptions and to distribute bulletins, etc.

Their benefits are:—

1. A basic weekly commission of 1½d. on every 1s. collected from members.
2. A bonus on all cash prizes won by their members.

3. A gift voucher for every member who qualifies for a Goodwill Gift.

4. Special Collectors' Club Competitions.

AGREEMENT WITH R.P.P. LTD.

One Group member will have to be appointed by R.P.P. Ltd. as a Supervisor and will have to enter into a formal agreement with them. This is a common sense precaution as a great deal of money is involved and R.P.P. Ltd., have a responsibility to the Pool members to safeguard their subscriptions. Thereafter it will be for each Group to work out its own administrative arrangements in co-operation with R.P.P. Ltd.

POOL YOUR IDEAS

Collecting 5,000 1s. each week may sound a formidable task but is it really so daunting? It may not be achievable over-night, but careful study and the application of some 'O and M' techniques can make it a reasonable target to aim for. There is no limit to the number of cards a member may hold; one member of a household or one person in an office can become an agent for his family or colleagues; some members may be persuaded to pay by monthly or quarterly instalments (in advance of course!); a landlord has not to move far to get in the 1s. from his 'regulars'—indeed all places where people meet frequently and regularly lend themselves to this work. Methods will vary, of course, from Group to Group, but the pooling of labour-saving ideas and devices will help everyone and this will be organised through your Regional Officers.

The Merthyr Tydfil and Luton Groups have pioneered the way here and have found the results well worthwhile. Why not follow their example?

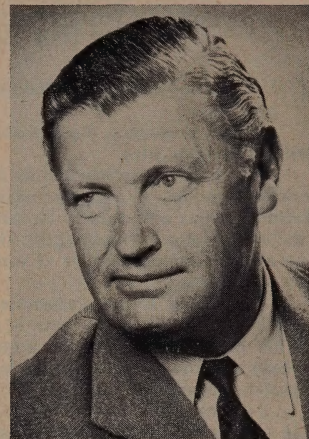
Save Your Cigarette Coupons

Tees-side Spastics Society is aiming to collect 500,000 cigarette coupons for a 12-seater Land Rover, to be supplied by W. D. and H. O. Wills.

Coupons may be sent to:—

Tees-side Work Centre,
Acklam Road,
Middlesbrough,
Yorks.

THE NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, APPEALS



Mr. Paul McConnell

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE appointed Mr. Paul McConnell as Assistant Director, Appeals on the 18th September, 1967.

Paul McConnell was commissioned into the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment in 1936. During the war he served in Egypt, the Western Desert Campaigns, and was invalided home in 1943 but later took part in the Allied Landings in Normandy. He is a keen sportsman and represented the Army in rugby and golf. He was Secretary and General Manager of the Guide Dogs for the Blind and during his time with the Association the work was greatly expanded. The number of dogs trained each year to lead blind people was more than doubled. The annual income increased from under £100,000 to over £700,000. In the business world he is a Company Director with interests in advertising and textiles.

The new Assistant Director is looking forward to meeting the Society's friends and supporters throughout the country who give invaluable help in a variety of ways and assist the Society to tackle energetically the enormous programme of rehabilitation of spastics.

He is married and lives at Ascot in Berkshire.

GROUPS & CENTRES IN THE NEWS

Cwmbran Work Centre

A TURF-CUTTING CEREMONY took place recently to mark the start of building operations at Cwmbran Work Centre. Mrs. C. E. Williams, Chairman of the Monmouthshire Spastics Society, used a silver spade to cut the first turf.

The centre, which is due to be completed by next summer, will provide work for forty heavily handicapped spastic men and women who are unable to work in open industry. They will undertake light industrial work, including drilling, finishing assembling and packing for local firms.

The premises will include a large work-room, stores, canteen, office accommodation and a rest and first-aid room. The canteen will also be used by the Monmouthshire Spastics Society for social functions and fund-raising activities.

South Humberside Spastics Society

THE GRIMSBY, CLEETHORPES and District Friends of Spastics Society is in future to be known as the South Humberside Spastics Society. This, says Secretary, Mr. K. Coulbeck, is to keep up with the times and to give the society an all-embracing name.

The society made a donation of £6,000 to the Lincolnshire Spastics Centre a year ago. Now it has high hopes that it will be able to provide a day care centre for spastic children to give parents some relief. There are about fifty spastics of all ages in the area covered by the South Humberside Society.

First Spastics Arrive at Camborne

THE FIRST FEW RESIDENTS have now moved into Rosewarne, the country mansion at Camborne, Cornwall, which was given to The Spastics Society by Mr. Jim Holman in memory of his mother. The centre, to be called the Gladys Holman Home, will eventually become a permanent home for twenty-four badly handicapped spastic men and women.

Transport for Paddington Workers

PADDINGTON WORK CENTRE has a new ambulance, costing £2,005. It has a hydraulic lift at the rear and special clamping devices for fixing wheelchairs whilst in transit. This means that the Work Centre will now be able to employ the maximum number of 30 spastics each day.



Dr. Sylvia Guthrie and the Bailiff of Jersey, Sir Robert le Masurier, admired the craftsmanship evident in the woodwork section

Further Provision: I

Jersey's Gift to Buxton

by Pauline Boddie

(by permission of Jersey Evening Post)

ON 28TH SEPTEMBER, the Bailiff of Jersey, Sir Robert le Masurier, D.S.C., pulled aside the red and white Jersey flag to unveil a plaque for the official opening of a therapy workshop at Buxton Residential Centre. The money for the workshop—£10,000 was raised by the Jersey Spastics Society in less than three years. The President of the Jersey group, Mr. C. G. Dumond, and fifteen committee members, flew over to attend the opening ceremony.

They were met at Manchester Airport by Mr. Lancaster-Gaye and Mrs. A. Moira and taken to the centre, where forty-two badly handicapped spastics work at a specific programme of study, sub-contract work or arts and crafts, according to individual capabilities. The Jersey party was welcomed by the Warden and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Simpson, and were joined by Mr. J. A. Loring, Dr. Sylvia Guthrie, Mr. Tony Frank and civic officials of Buxton.

Dr. Guthrie, acting as chairman of the proceedings, welcomed the visitors and acknowledged the generosity of the Jersey people. Sir Robert le Masurier, replying, said that the ceremony marked the islanders' endeavour to maintain the meaning of the word charity which was, he felt, one of the main forces of good for mankind. There was, he said, a continuing belief that there was a political solution to all human problems but he

thought that those who believed this would be as disappointed with the future as with the past. He thanked those who had organised the trip—mainly Mr. A. W. Filleul, the Jersey Society's Honorary Secretary—and added that the money came with very best wishes from the island.

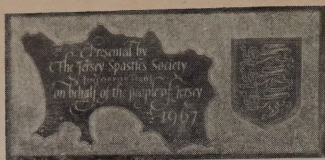
'Jersey is a small island, but it obviously has a large and warm heart,' said Mr. Loring, thanking Sir Robert for his speech. He stressed the problems of raising money but said he knew that the public never failed to contribute when help was needed.

Mr. Dumond, after thanking his committee for all their work and fund-raising, outlined some of the work that the Jersey Group had undertaken. They helped local spastics to find work and provided transport. Jersey spastics were sent away on holidays and every year parties of mainland spastics came to Jersey as the guests of the committee for a two-week holiday. They had provided, in addition to the Buxton workshop, £7,000 for a pool at Ingfield Manor in Sussex, with a further £1,000 to the Thomas Delarue School.

'Our next project is a nursery wing for the Junior Training Centre in Jersey,' he concluded.

After Mr. F. Parker, Assistant Honorary Treasurer of the Jersey Group, had presented to Mr. Loring the cheque for

(Continued overleaf)



The Commemorative Plaque was a decorative version of the Isle of Jersey and its arms

£10,000 the visitors were taken on a tour of the workshop. Therapy work included threading beads, making and varnishing egg-cup sets, turning attractive wooden bowls on a foot-operated lathe and making containers for delicate precision equipment.

After tea had been served in the residents' dining room the Jersey group left to spend a night in Buxton before flying home the next day.



Lady Rachel Bowes-Lyon, escorted by Lt.-Col. L. B. Morkill, on her tour of the new swimming pool building which she opened

Further Provision: 2

'the Joy on Small Faces'

Watford Pool Opening by THE EDITOR

MORE, PERHAPS, IS DONE for some children affected by C.P. than is done for normal children; we should take heart that this is so. It makes up, in some small measure for what they are unable to do for themselves.

This thought was prompted by the joy on the small faces of the children floating happily about in the superb new hydrotherapy pool at the Watford Centre, attended by two hydrotherapists, Miss Brewer and Mrs. Hill. The centre itself, a stark modern building in North Watford, was opened by Lady Bowes-Lyon on 10th September, 1963, and she had come on 28th September this year to open the new pool.

In only three years over £8,000 had been raised to build on the specially designed extension that houses the pool, and the local committee, headed by Lt.-Col. H. B. Morkill, could still hardly believe it. Support had been slow at first but in the second year large organisations with trust funds at their disposal had contributed and work was started. The target had been passed, and now the pool was built.

I have seen a number of such places, but this seemed to have a charm of its own. Placed adjacent to the main wing of the centre, it forms the Southern end of a garden patio, but through the ingenious

use of glass, does not enclose it completely; trees can be seen beyond.

Designed by Oliver Carey and Partners (County Swimming Pools) who built the pool, the scale, materials, and fenestration are all in accord with the main building which was constructed by William King and Sons. But over and above that, the committee have gone to great pains to anticipate the snags that had been revealed in pools in other parts of the country which they visited.

Overcoming the Snags

Seepage they hope to avoid by having built the extension separated by four or five feet from the main building. Condensation they appear to have beaten by double-glazing and electric fans placed under the radiators to circulate hot air up the windows. Certainly there is no damp on the ceiling or walls. Various other features are tentative and will be altered or modified in the light of experience. These include wooden steps up to the pool and some loose fittings.

The pool itself, finished in soft grey tiles, is 14 ft. 9 in. long by 8 ft. 6 in. wide, but it is divided by an interior wall extending to a foot or two away from the entrance steps which provides a walking space 2 ft. wide and only 2 ft. 6 in. deep.

The rest of the pool is 3 ft. deep. Chromium hand-rails encircle the water and the top and sides are in grey green tiling. Housed in a separate compartment is the boiler, which keeps the water at a steady temperature of 98° and the water is changed every half-an-hour.

An attractive—and intriguing—feature of the lay-out is the free standing arrangement of showers, changing rooms and W.C.s by the side of the pool. This is again finished in soft grey tiles, and with the pink and white striped plastic curtains fits in very well with the whole colour scheme.

About twenty-four children are treated every day at the centre by Mrs. Reid and her devoted staff, and in their four years' stewardship 113 have been treated.

Their ideals are expressed in the potent apophthegm: the independent child is a happy child. Steps to independence are reflected in the rows of little hand basins with different tap fittings, with notices above each pair in large red letters:

NO HELP — TRAINING — ASSISTANCE

Yes, it is a wonderful effort of fund-raising, this pool of which the Hertfordshire Society may well be proud, but as Mr. Michael Stopford said, 'The need now is for continuous support to cover the heavy running costs of the establishment.'

Plymouth Centre Goes Comprehensive

Lord Iddesleigh opens new Family Help Unit

by

ANNE PLUMMER

PLYMOUTH SPASTICS (C.P.) ASSOCIATION, founded in 1951, is older than The Spastics Society itself and has a fantastic record of achievement. In sixteen years the group has made provision for hundreds of local spastics with many different types of handicap ranging in age from infancy to retirement. Only now has the Association had to call on the national Society for financial aid in running its new Family Help Unit. This unit is the latest addition to Trengweath, the Plymouth Spastics Centre, which was officially opened on 26th September by the Earl of Iddesleigh.

In an address of welcome at the opening ceremony Dr. D. E. Wheeler, Vice-Chairman of the Society's Executive Committee, described the centre as 'A dream come true', and Lord Iddesleigh followed this up by praising the voluntary workers who had helped to turn the dream into reality. His Lordship went on to say that it had not been easy to raise funds locally but the Plymouth city authority had given magnificent support and several well-known people had been interested, including Eric Robinson whose special appeal had made the Work Centre possible.

In the twelve years since the purchase of Trengweath, the Plymouth Association had provided a day school, training centre, treatment facilities and a sheltered workshop on the same site, while an adult residential hostel had been opened at Cliveden House. Now a Family Help Unit had been added to the Trengweath buildings which would be of immense benefit to people in the South West. The unit would come under the administration of Miss M. Ridley, who was already much loved as the Principal of the Day Centre.

Lord Iddesleigh concluded his speech



The Earl of Iddesleigh and the Principal of Trengweath, Miss M. I. A. Ridley, talk to a girl typist at the Centre

by unveiling a commemorative plaque and was presented with a plant by Kathleen Holloway and Terry Mills, two spastic children from the nursery group. The presentation of a bouquet to Lady Iddesleigh had been planned but unfortunately she was prevented by illness from attending the ceremony.

Proposing a vote of thanks to Lord Iddesleigh, Mr. Loring said that The Spastics Society was also finding it difficult to raise funds especially since the Football Pools Case setback. The main role of charities today was filling up gaps in the Welfare State, whose provision for the handicapped was gravely inadequate. The disabled, he felt, were being deprived of full participation in the new emergent society and parents of severely handicapped children were often left to carry their burden alone.

'A very real need'

He was pleased to see that Trengweath catered for spastics who were mentally as well as physically handicapped because there was a very real need here. Conditions in state institutions for the sub-normal were often little better than those in the slave ships of the 18th century and he had been told of one hospital where there was only one trained nurse in charge of five wards. Mr. Loring concluded by congratulating the Plymouth Spastics Association on its past work and hoped that the Society's help would encourage them to go forward with renewed vigour.

The final speaker was Mr. K. C. Wyatt, Chairman of the Plymouth Spastics Asso-

ciation, who looked back to the early days of the Society under Mr. Dawson Shepherd, Mr. Pritchard and Mr. Lauder, 'When they were like us,' he said, 'With great ideas but no cash.' This was a proud day for the Plymouth Association, and it had been the hard work of the parents' group which had made Trengweath possible. They were now able to help spastics right through from infancy to retiring age and were particularly proud of their facilities for the ineducable. However, they must not sit back and rest because 'Big Brother in London' had finished the work for them. There was still plenty to be done, especially for the older, more severely handicapped spastic.

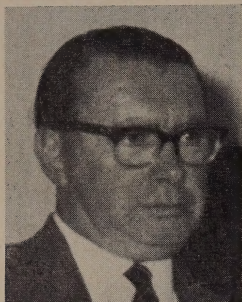
The ceremony was brought to a close with a dedicatory prayer from the Bishop of Plymouth.

After tea, Miss Huish, a young occupational therapist on the staff of Trengweath, showed me around the centre. It was an attractive modern building, decorated throughout with pleasantly contrasting white walls and natural woodwork which made a good background for brightly coloured pictures and curtains. Tea had been served in two rooms normally occupied by the Special Training Group—spastics between 5 and 14, with an average I.Q. of 58, who are unable to benefit from formal education, but learn simple tasks which will help them to become independent in everyday life.

Then we went to see the under-fives who were divided into two groups. Those in the nursery school learnt painting and

(Continued overleaf)

Plymouth Goes Comprehensive (Cont'd)



Mr. K. C. Wyatt

simple handicrafts, while the others were just a play group. Both rooms were extremely well-equipped, and a popular feature of the playroom was a 'sand-pit', raised about two feet above floor level. We looked in at various speech and physiotherapy sessions and the gym, where a little boy was bouncing merrily up and down, stark naked on the trampoline. The high quality of the academic work being done was evident in the school room where many examples of the children's work were displayed.

The new Family Help Unit is very well designed, with no hint of institutionalism. It will provide short-term accommodation for 12 or 14 children in times of family crisis or while parents go on holiday. There are three cheerful rooms of four beds each and two additional single rooms where mothers can stay if necessary. A trained nursing staff will be in attendance and running costs of the entire Centre will be met by The Spastics Society.

Our tour ended with the Eric Robinson Work Centre which is under the management of Capt. A. E. Wood. Here twenty-two spastics do light engineering work under sub-contract to Tecalmit, a local firm. Since the beginning of 1965 they have assembled over half a million accelerator rods. Other work being done for the motor industry included the cutting up of oil piping into specified lengths. The girl who was operating this machine told me that she could cut 3,000 lengths on a good day, for which she earned 44s. 6d. on a piecework basis.

The achievements of the Plymouth Spastics Association should give real encouragement to other groups who are trying to 'go it alone.' Spastics in the south-west are fortunate to have such an active organisation working on their behalf.



Among the guests at the R.P.P. Birthday Dinner were Mrs. John Price, Mrs. Arter and Mr. Douglas Arter (Chairman), Mrs. C. P. Stevens, the Society's late Director's widow, and Mr. John Price, Assistant Director, Finance

R.P.P. Celebrate 10th Birthday

ANY TEN-YEAR-OLD who has managed to raise £17½ million for charity deserves a special birthday party, and Regional Pool Promotions provided one in the form of a gala evening to mark the tenth anniversary of the Spastics Pool.

The celebration took place in the Grand Spa Hotel in Bristol, and was attended by the Pool Directors and Staff, and by members of The Spastics Society and the Stars' Organisation for Spastics.

The evening began with a reception. Then came dinner, followed by dancing and a programme of novelty events. There was also a tombola which raised £650 for the Stars' Organisation for Spastics. The money was received on behalf of the S.O.S. by disc jockey Don Moss and actor Jack Howarth (alias Albert Tatlock of 'Coronation Street'). Jack Howarth raised a further £70 for spastics by selling autographed pictures to fans. In fact he has raised £1,300 this way during the past four years.

In a speech of thanks, Mr. Howarth said the money would be particularly useful because the S.O.S., having established a holiday hotel and an adult residential centre, now had a third project in hand. That was the building of a centre in London for teenage and older spastics from all over the country.

Mr. W. A. Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society, proposed a toast to Regional Promotions.

'I speak for the Society and all its Local Groups in saying thank you for every pound you have raised to help us', he said. 'That means I should say 14 million thank you's because that is the

number of pounds you have given us in the past ten years.'

Mr. Burn said the key to the Pool's success was that it was a team effort by its directors, supervisors, collectors and general staff. But he stressed that the work that lay ahead of the Society was far greater than what it had already achieved.

'However, I know that you in R.P.P. and we in the Society will accept this as a challenge', he declared. 'The aim of the Society is to enable every spastic person to lead a normal life within his or her handicap. There are over 75,000 spastics in the country of which we have only been able to help 20,000. And many of those 20,000 have not had nearly enough help from us.'

'It was vital', he said, 'to bring more young people into the Society because new and energetic ideas could achieve much, particularly in fund-raising.'

In reply, Mr. D. S. Arter, Chairman of Regional Pool Promotions Ltd., said that in 10 years the Pool had raised more than £17½ million for charity, the great part of which had been used to help spastics. In addition Pool members had received £26 million in cash prizes, plus 13 million Goodwill Gifts.

Special guests at the party were 89-year-old Mr. J. Carter and his 83-year-old wife, from Overton Way, Bookham, Surrey. They had been invited for a two-fold reason; they are among the Pool's oldest members, and their Golden Wedding Day was on the same date as the Pool's tenth anniversary. Don Moss presented them with special gifts. J.S.

PROBLEMS of the OLDER SPASTIC

Can we anticipate these, and prevent them through earlier action,

asks OLIVE SURTEES, M.C.S.P.,

Senior Physiotherapist, Percy Hedley Centre for Spastics

THE MORE ONE WORKS with adult spastics, the more one is convinced that to attempt the evaluation of their problems at this stage is unrealistic; it is perhaps even futile. Even at adolescence one must ask the question 'Are we too late?' Adolescence is associated with independence whether children are normal or otherwise. It is at this stage that spastics start to reject sentimental assurances, face their handicaps and try to come to terms. Probably a painful realisation of the inevitability of their disablement occurs earlier than this, maybe at 10 or even 9 as opposed to early teens. Intelligence and experience are influential factors. 'How bright do you have to be to put two and two together' is the real question.

Realisation of abnormalities at an early age is more likely where the cerebral palsied are in a school with an upper age limit of 16. Years of conscientious therapy are not taken into account by children who see their older counterparts speaking incoherently, some still in wheelchairs or wearing calipers. They have a backcloth to colour doubts which are rapidly becoming realities. On our own doorstep is an adult centre. Is it not logical that they look at this centre as an example of what lies ahead of them?

Some vital questions

Having worked for some time at what might be termed, 'The end of the line', certain questions suggest themselves. (1) Are we inadvertently aggravating the frustrations and difficulties of spastic adolescents by giving insufficient explanation of various treatments and operations? (2) Are we too slow in giving the full picture to parents, and by being so, is the child 'getting the message first'?

Take the first question: A child, to have an operation is told, 'Your bent knees will be straightened, 'but should we not add words to the effect:—'You may well walk better but not normally. You may have discomfort at times but it will enable you to do more for yourself'.

The second question brings forward yet another aspect. Many spastic adults have told me, that having reconciled themselves at an early age to their per-

manent handicap, their parents have continued to urge and encourage by saying, 'If you keep trying you will be walking one day'. Either, the parent is unaware of the truth; knows it and is unable to face it, or does not concede that their twelve-year-old could have reached this stage of realisation, and so, misguidedly, hopes to forestall it. Considerable help is given to parents on physical and educational matters, but is enough done to help parents assist their children over this difficult hump? Many parents do nothing. They evade this major issue. By the time their children reach adult life they talk to them in a manner similar to that of the parent who shirks his responsibility over 'The birds and the bees'. They assume their child has got the message somewhere along the line, not questioning how, where or when; they are only too relieved that they themselves have managed to skate round it.

It is such factors as these which have irritated the adult spastic in the past.

After the 'day of dawning' other tormenting questions arise in the mind of the spastic. 'Where will I live?' 'Will there be work for me?' 'Will my parents be able to lift me?' 'When I leave school will other people understand my difficulties?' 'What will I do when my parents die?' At the same time they begin to question their religious tuition. They have difficulty in reconciling their 'lot' with a God of love, and continue to do so into adult life.

Add all this to the normal disturbance of puberty and it presents an obstacle, formidable for even the most stable.

In the past we have seen a few extreme cases where adolescents and young adults have exhibited bouts of bizarre behaviour, either just before, or soon after leaving school. This has been seen in the form of hallucinations, development of psychosomatic symptoms or malingering.

For example, shortly after taking up residence in Chipchase, a severely handicapped athetoid, became morose, lost her appetite and complained of excruciating pain in her arms. This is an alarming situation for parents and house staff, but with care on the part of all concerned such incidents can be attenuated, perhaps even forestalled.

For the young adult living at home the world may look different during the first few months after school leaving. He too, often exhibits bouts of irrational behaviour, refusing to go to work, refusing to eat or speak for long periods. The last two years in school present a good opportunity to preclude much of this and so make the transition of adolescent to adult spastic, smoother. Better co-operation with parents is desirable. Regarding the spastic themselves a fair answer should be given to a fair question whenever possible. In the past some have asked 'Where will I go when I leave school?' and have received the reply, 'Don't worry too much about that now, there will be plenty of time to think about it'. Such answers not only irritate but inflate anxiety.

In certain cases where school-leavers are due to go into residential care it may well be advantageous to them to spend a few days there during the previous term. They can become acquainted with the new surroundings and have an opportunity to experience workshop atmosphere.

Is 'Hostel' the right word?

When telling children where they will live we may well consider, at this point whether 'Hostel' is a suitable word to use. Particularly when associated with 'Workshop'. It has the ring of a parish work-house, or other somewhat cold charity. The house and grounds are surely worthy of a better name than 'hostel'.

At the adult stage the physical problems which arise from time to time are common to both residents and non-residents. Chilblains and other circulatory disturbances occur due to inactivity. The former can be prevented to some extent by giving strong doses of ultra-violet light to suspect cases before the chilblain season. Some develop pain in various parts due to long term deformity, and this can prove distressing. For these reasons alone it is important that the adult spastic should not remain in a fixed position all day. House staff should attend to this, and keep the difficult walkers walking with their aids, who otherwise (and in all probability) would remain in their chairs.

(Continued overleaf)

PROBLEMS of the OLDER SPASTIC (Cont'd)

The chair-bound should be encouraged to exercise on the floor. At Chipchase in the summer they have an opportunity to go into the pool as well as having a modified 'keep fit' class on the lawn which provides both exercise and amusement.

Corns, bunions and other foot conditions are there in plenty and for this reason they receive the regular attention of a chiropodist.

For the most part problems of the adult spastic are of an emotional nature. Broadly speaking, the non-resident has more contact with normal workers and can exploit this to establish an acceptable compromise in his way of life. Severity of handicap, and whether work is sheltered or otherwise have great bearing on this. Much also depends on the good sense of parents and family. The severely handicapped living at home certainly prove a hindrance to the activities of the other family members. As one parent aptly said, 'It is like having a young baby all your life'. The spastic, in turn may be made to feel an encumbrance. Parents with responsibility for an adult spastic surely deserve some outside assistance. An annual break for example if their charge is taken into care then a dual purpose is served. The parents have a rest and the spastic broadens his horizon. This, in a small way is preparation for the future. Some parents have wisely trained their child to remain at home without them for short periods. Whether or not this is desirable obviously depends on circumstances, but many who could remain alone, *do not* because they are either selfish or unnecessarily too dependent. How much do we do to cultivate independence and unselfishness?

A different life for the residents

The resident spastic, with whom I am more familiar leads rather a different life. In the early days of residence he undergoes a period of re-adjustment. Whether this be slow or speedy depends mainly on previous experiences over which we have so much influence. Help and understanding are also received from his new associates. A new adult arrival in Chip-

chase may well feel insecure when handled by unfamiliar hands, or not able to make himself understood. If this be so it is only right that house parents should have help from someone who can advise on case history as appropriate, and explain any particular attention that is necessary. A lack of this can be responsible for misunderstanding and mismanagement with attendant frustrations all round. In Chipchase it has been possible for the Medical Director to hold clinics with all staff present. This gives them the opportunity to learn something of the nature of cerebral palsy. They can relate this to the cases in their care. We have been able to show films of Percy Hedley children, in various stages of development whom they now know as adults.

Unfortunately, the care of adults is in some ways a thankless task, particularly for the ill-informed, and this may well be a contributory factor to the frequent turn over of staff. These are the normal adults to whom the intelligent resident looks for conversation. Initial overtures are strengthening into friendly relationships, when departure occurs. The spastic then wonders to what extent he and his kind are responsible for this departure.

The adult spastic has a strong desire to be treated as a normal adult and particularly to be involved in normal adult activities, with a degree of freedom. One must refer back to the school period at this point. Much can be done then to make them more acceptable in a normal community. The encouragement of conversation. Cultivation of a pride in appearance and personal hygiene. The adoption of any method which will counteract dribbling. All are possible and vital.

Facilities to maintain morale

Once in residence, facilities for such factors as regular hairdressing are invaluable as morale boosters. For those who are capable, a car gives the wherewithal to move independently, even a tricycle satisfies the less fortunate.

Although we dislike the word 'institutionalised' and do everything to prevent a child becoming so, the fact remains that the residents are so, to varying degrees. If they lived at home and made a new friend they would be free to offer an invitation. In residence they either presume rules don't allow it or it never occurs to them to do so. They also know that facilities are such that to entertain in privacy would be difficult. It is hardly likely that the new friend would call uninvited, as he is unfamiliar with the procedure, and would be unsure of his reception.

One of our residents seeks the company of the local Pigeon Fanciers. Should he

not be in a position to invite one of them home if he so desired? It has been said that spastics both young and old, receive but think little of giving. Is the situation always such that it is made easy for them to give? One resident visits a pub regularly, ostensibly seeking out normal company. If he is established as a great receiver his new found friends are going to tire very quickly. He in turn will be disillusioned. It is not lack of opportunity to give, but lack of training and experience.

The Pigeon Fanciers, pub frequenters and more intelligent males have found interests. *There* is a minority group, however, who involve themselves with love and matrimonial affairs. Those who do, suffer considerable heartache. All have the same natural desires and instincts as the normal. The more intelligent, particularly the men, appear to comprehend the implications of a love affair much better than the less intelligent. The rational male tends to avoid a situation which would lead to all the obvious frustrations. In short, they come to terms with the difficulty. They allow the head to govern the heart. They try to sublimate their natural urges by absorbing themselves in other interests. This does not mean that they make a business of avoiding women, that coming to terms with this problem is easy or that they would prefer a segregated community. They merely avoid a close relationship with one in particular.

Frustrations of the 'Love Business'

The less intelligent make a business of love and are often more frustrated than their counterparts. An affair such as this is fraught with difficulties from the outset, because it could rarely reach fruition. It has been seen that a couple appear to fall in and out of love frequently in the course of a week. This acts as a safety valve and rekindles the fire. If facilities were available whereby the heavily handicapped could marry, further questions arise. (1) How would they manage children? (2) Would they be willing to relinquish a child to be cared for elsewhere? (3) Could a normal child be happy and well adjusted with two handicapped parents? Or would they be satisfied with a married relationship only? The intelligent male says 'Yes'; his female counterpart is doubtful. The less intelligent, like the physically normal but unintelligent, never give the matter a thought.

Many would say this is not an unusual state of affairs. The normal experience similar difficulties and have to find their own solution. *But* the normal have greater opportunity for meeting their opposites. Above all, having found a partner and

decided to marry, the future is not fraught with insurmountable difficulties.

Boredom is yet another problem which can arise both in and out of working hours if allowed to take root. In work this is avoided by periodically changing the tasks. Out of working hours and at weekends, in our own system, there are many classes and activities available to counteract boredom. It would seem that the adult spastics do take advantage of these facilities. When I asked them why they all enjoyed the educational classes so much, their answer was not just to relieve boredom. They maintained, that they could now see more clearly why they should learn at this stage, than they could when they were under 16. Also they were learning subjects they had not had the opportunity to embark on previously.

The boredom of lonely holidays

Boredom and to a certain degree distress arises during holiday periods for the small minority who are unable to go to their homes. The latter have to be placed in various homes and hospitals where the system is hardly amenable. We may well consider a system whereby this problem could be solved for adults and children alike. Christmas in particular is a time for reunions and goodwill, not separations. This is the one holiday break they find particularly distressing.

Those who are unable to read are at a great disadvantage when confined to bed through illness. They have to be left alone, suffer boredom and in turn they lie and brood, becoming depressed.

There are times when the young adult in particular suffers from bouts of dissatisfaction with his residence. They grumble to their parents about trivialities which they magnify. The parents in turn become anxious, often feeling guilty about their son or daughter being away from home. This situation has on occasions been resolved by allowing the resident to remain at home for a few weeks where he often experiences true boredom. He is then happy to return.

A holiday exchange system with a similar residential establishment could well prove beneficial. Owing to their limited experience the adult spastics are unable to make comparisons and thereby do not necessarily appreciate their present surroundings.

How easy it is to treat spastic abnormalities as a barrier—somewhat like 'Alice through the Looking Glass' where those, 'beyond the fringe', look so queer. Nevertheless—like the looking glass characters—mature thought makes them very rational indeed. Lift this barrier and this is what you find. This I have tried to do at Chipchase. It is the residents not I who have really written this paper.

—and an able exposition of the question by a Spastic, G. VERNON

DURING THE COMPARATIVELY short period in which it has been in existence The Spastics Society has enjoyed a very great measure of success in its efforts to improve the lot of spastics.

The public's imagination was captured by the skilful use of a picture of a spastic child. Although there was from the beginning, of course, an adult population in the spastic world, it was rightly thought that the plight of a child would have a greater effect on the emotions of the general public. So the publicity of the Society made the most of this emotional appeal, almost completely ignoring the adult spastic.

But if the Society was able to forget the adult spastic for publicity purposes it could not do so practically. The problem of the adult spastic is really greater than that of the child. The needs of a child are comparatively simple, over and above the ordinary demands of love and security which, in the normal course of events, are supplied by the family. To the spastic child the Society was able to give the chance of a first-class education and therapeutic facilities, and this it preceded to do with truly outstanding success.

The needs and problems of the adult spastic are not as clear-cut as those of the child, nor are they as easy to satisfy. Ideally, of course, he should be able to earn his own living and live a normal life and an increasing number of spastics are proving capable of doing this. But there is now, and always will be, a percentage of spastics reaching adulthood whose degree of handicap is too severe for them to attain this ideal. It is, I think, the problem of these people which is the most difficult and pressing human problem before The Spastics Society today.

Ironically it would probably be true to say that this problem has been intensified by The Spastics Society itself as a side-effect of the success in making provision for education during the individual's formative years. Education is a fine thing. It develops the intellect, broadens the mind, widens the sphere of interest; and it also creates ambitions and desires which might otherwise have remained dormant.

After the physical well-being of the individual has been achieved, and this is a straight forward matter whether he is living at home or in one of the Society's residential centres, he begins to worry about satisfying his inner self. And here he soon encounters a real personal prob-

lem. How can he justify his own existence?

Put in the simplest form, this question is, of course, what use am I? This question is not always easy to answer when you are stuck in a wheelchair, waited on hand and foot, without any useful function to perform in return for all the attention that is being lavished upon you, and the hardest thing for anyone to bear, is the thought that he is of no use at all and a burden on the rest of society.

Everything depends on how the individual meets and tackles this fundamental question concerning his own existence. Unless he can give himself a satisfactory answer he is never going to be truly happy.

The best answer that has so far been found seems to be to stuff even more education into him. This appears to be the conclusion the Society has reached and it is also the conclusion I have come to myself in my own problem of this nature. I do not claim to have given myself an answer yet. I have merely deferred an answer to a later date. What I have said to myself in effect is: 'I may not be much use at the moment but I'm working on it'. It is in this thought that the weakness of education as an answer to the problem can be found. It is really no solution at all, it does not solve the problem it merely puts off the day when a solution will have to be found—or the search abandoned. I suppose there are people who can go on studying all their lives with nothing but the academic thirst for further knowledge to spur them on, but I doubt whether they are very numerous. I certainly could not. There would have to be a reason behind it. One day I am going to have to face that question. I hope I can give myself an answer.

But this may not be such an isolated problem as might be supposed. If we are to believe what we read we are on the edge of the age of leisure—the age when automation will largely destroy the need to work at all. If this is the case then we are faced with the intriguing prospect of the majority of the people finding themselves in a similar position to the one we are in now. They too, may find themselves without a useful function and ask themselves: 'What use am I? Perhaps we are just somewhat ahead of the rest. In fact that may be the answer to our question. Perhaps we are destined to provide an answer for the rest of society, and good use will be made of our experience.



Sketches
by **SALLON**

No. 4

Derek Lancaster-Gaye
*Assistant Director
Services*

ALERT, on the ball, Derek Lancaster-Gaye in this sketch by Sallon, here looks the part of the competent administrator—and he is all of that. But there is also an X factor in his make-up that has brought him to his present office of Asst. Director Services, in a matter of six years.

The clue to that factor may lie in his training as a Hospital Administrator when he was demobbed in 1948 with the rank of Staff Captain. He then went as Administrator at the Ipswich Hospital. Here was someone who wished to make a career in the field of the relief of suffering, and that he has done.

For Derek joined the Colonial Medical Service and did a great job in Kumasi and Accra, Ghana.

He returned from West Africa to become Asst. General

Secretary of the Medical Practitioners' Union and then joined the Society as Local Centres Secretary and later, Development Secretary.

In these positions he brought his early Architectural training and organisational flair to bear on the practical problems of the design and building of schools and centres, some of which have achieved Civic Awards for Design in relationship to environment.

Now he faces the new orientation of our work towards Family Help Units, and controls the large Advisory, Educational, Employment and Social Welfare staff which is the point where the Society's effort meets the public, and as spokesman for that occasion he is well-equipped to cope with any difficulties that may arise.

Pierre's Good Deed

THAT ACTIVE CAMPAIGNER for Road Safety for children, Pierre the Clown, has just recorded two amusing 7 in. E.P. discs, to rub in that lesson and others, notably care of the teeth—as in the picture here-with.

They are called 'Pierre the Clown in Space Rhyme Town' and 'Pierre the Clown in Nursery Rhyme Town' and both cost 7s. 6d. Pierre who, it will be remembered, wrote some delightful children's stories for the NEWS earlier this year, tells me that he has also written some of the verses for the records, too.

So that's an idea for a Christmas present, surely?

Buxton Wedding

ON 19TH SEPTEMBER the marriage took place between Mr. John Roberts and Miss Sheila Hassall, both residents at Buxton Centre.

John and Sheila have known each other for 14 years and have been engaged for four years. They were married in St. John's Church, Buxton, and had their reception at the Bedford.

The bride wore a short white dress of lace over satin with chiffon drapes, and for her going away outfit chose a smart grey suit. The couple spent a few days honeymoon at Blackpool before going to live in Southampton.

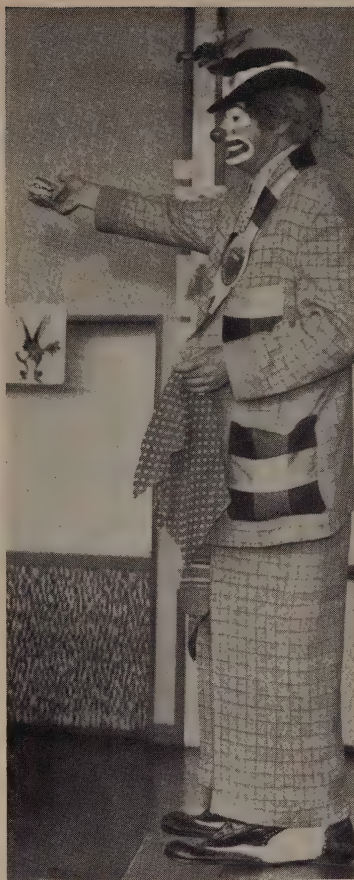
Electronic Worms

MR. HAROLD AVERY of Broughton, Lincs., doesn't have to dig for worms when he goes fishing. He forces an electric current into the earth through a steel rod and the worms just pop up out of the ground. He is prepared to share the secret with other anglers on condition that they make a donation to the Scunthorpe Spastics Centre.

A Garden Sale with a Difference

ON SATURDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER, a Garden Sale with a difference was held in the garden of 8-year-old Stephen Mansfield, at 20 Chapel View, South Croydon.

Together with two friends, Stephen Routley, 8 years old and Katie Routley,



Pierre the Clown demonstrating 'clean teeth' during a lecture (see Pierre's Good Deed)

10 years old, Stephen ran the Sale in aid of the Croydon and District Spastics Society and raised the splendid sum of £13 1s. 0d.

They sold items they had collected from local houses and organised a raffle and a treasure hunt and a sideshow. They even sold refreshments.

A Remarkable Family

A RECENT ARTICLE in the *Andover Advertiser* tells the inspiring story of how the Glynn family of Grateley, Hants, have coped with having three spastic children. The chances against this happening have been worked out by computer as many, many millions to one.

After Jonathan (now 15) Martin (14) and Daphne (12) had all been diagnosed as spastics, the Glynn family decided to have a fourth child, against all medical advice. Alexandra, born ten years ago, turned out to be perfectly normal in every way.

The two boys attend *Lord Mayor Tre-*

loar College for the handicapped at Alton, while Daphne is at a *Barnardo's School* in Taunton, and they all come home for holidays. 'We have never had so much help and kindness as we have had since we came to Hampshire', said Mrs. Glynn, 'People have gone out of their way to help us—and so have the authorities.'

The local group recently sent the three spastics on holiday to Bexhill while Mr. and Mrs. Glynn and Alexandra went to Switzerland on their first real holiday for twelve years.

Louis Battye's Radio Play

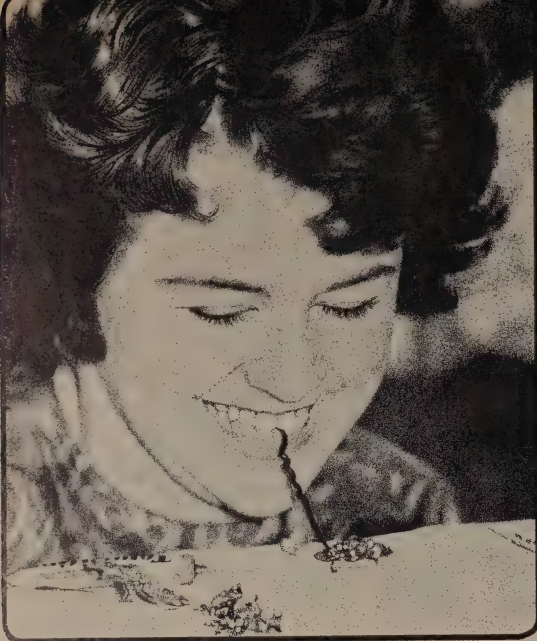
MR. LOUIS BATTYE, the spastic writer who lives at White Windows Cheshire Home, Sowerby Bridge, Yorks, has had a play produced on the B.B.C. Northern Home Service. It is an adaptation of his novel 'The Narrow Shore' which is about a polio victim and attempts to express something of the problems of disablement.

Gifts to Meldreth

CHILDREN AT MELDRETH Training School have been fortunate lately. In August they received a motor assisted pedal car and other toys which were presented to the Society by Sir Patrick Hennessey, Chairman of the Ford Motor Company. A month later, Epping Forest Spastics Group decided to make a donation of 100 gns., to be used specifically for Meldreth. Moreover, as a result of a Postal Appeal—under the heading, 'M for Meldreth'—over £6,000 in direct donations has been received at Park Crescent for use on Meldreth, and 100 Covenants have also been assigned.

It's an ill wind . . .

THE RECENT LIBEL ACTION brought by the Prime Minister against the pop group *The Move*, has had a happy ending—at least for two charities. Mr. Wilson has asked that all royalties on *The Move's* record 'Flowers in the Rain', (estimated at a probable £7,000) and other damages awarded by the court should be divided between The Spastics Society and the amenities fund of Stoke Mandeville Hospital.



Helping Spastics

The work of



THE HOMEWORK SECTION has twin objectives. Firstly, to provide employment for those spastics who, because of their disability, are homebound and, secondly, to sell the goods they produce.

Behind that bald statement are many problems because in planning a flow of work, the Homework Section cannot think of the homebound in terms of units of production. Each homemaker is a distinct individual, with a handicap that differs widely in extent and severity from that of his fellows. Aptitudes, capabilities and interests must be taken into account, otherwise, it would be a question of providing work for work's sake. This could be as monotonous to homeworkers as to the able-bodied.

Speed of performance is another variable factor; there are no set norms to go by. One homemaker can complete a quantity of work in three hours; another may take three days for the same output. Allied to the mechanics of work performance, is of course, the personality of the worker. His attitude, not only to the job in hand, but his whole outlook is often reflected in the quality and quantity of work produced.

The Homework Section now has on the staff a Homework Liaison Officer whose responsibility it is to visit the home and advise on work problems. New referrals to the Homework Scheme are visited and a decision made on the type of work to offer. Before visiting, the Liaison Officer has before him for study, all the available information on the potential homemaker that exists in the

Society's records. The Officer is also responsible for planning and introducing short Instruction Courses which have proved invaluable in assessing the limitations of the homemaker.

Once the homebound person starts work, subsequent visits are made to the home so he is not left in isolation or unsupported. The relationship between the Homework Section and the homemaker is important. It is a working partnership.

Into the office come all sorts of letters. Chatty ones, problem ones, happy ones and sometimes, sorrowful ones. The Homework Section's terms of reference are very elastic! Obviously, the Section works in close contact with the Social Workers, giving mutual support in a common task.

Work in a Competitive Market

What are the practical results of all this exacting activity? The homemaker sees himself as an important member of the Society 'family'—which he is!

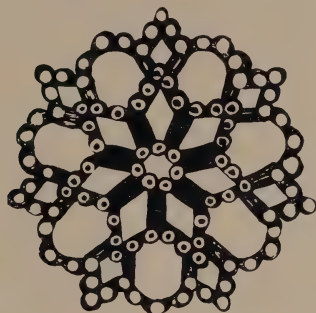
He is not working for charity; he is in competition with the able-bodied for quality control is very stringent. If he does bad work—he is not paid! He knows his work is offered in a competitive market and when sold has to give satisfaction. He also knows that the quality of his work carries the goodwill of the Society.

The Homework Section provides employment and in the process the homemaker achieves that sense of dignity and a degree of independence which comes from earning his own money.



Help Themselves

Home-Work Section described by **A. A. DOBSON**
(Homework Manager)



Further, he achieves the results by self-discipline, consequently, wastage of material has been cut to zero.

It will be seen, the problems of production are not insoluble, given patience and understanding. The question of Sales, however, present the Homework Section with an entirely different set of problems.

Christmas cards printed by homebound spastics, face a market which becomes more competitive annually, as other charitable organisations strive to expand their sales of cards. Jewellery produced by the homemaker is subject to the whims and fancies of fashion and customer choice while other handicrafts find only a limited market.

The Homework Section is tackling Sales with vigour. Publicity, information, exhibitions, films and speaking engagements are geared to promote enthusiastic interest in the activities of homeworkers. Led by the Homework Manager, the small number of staff on the Section, work to a simple maxim—'If we don't sell, we cannot employ'.

Mainly, the Sales efforts are centred on the local Groups. Forming a net-work all over the country, Groups are in a favourable position to foster interest in the local community and at the same time to augment their own Group funds by securing sales. The more goods Groups sell, the more quickly can the Section absorb those spastics who are on the waiting lists for work. The number waiting is over 100!

Recently, the Homework Section sent a wages cheque to a homemaker. All his

life he has been confined to a wheelchair. This was the first time he had earned any money of his own. His age—47 years! This is one of the successes. There are many more to follow—with your interest and help.

Some Workers Write

1. Joan Lewis of Winchelsea Road, Hastings, Sussex writes:—

'I like being a homemaker and doing the marcasite jewellery for The Spastics Society. Apart from helping to pass the time, it gives me some personal satisfaction to know that although I am unable to go out to work, I can make something that will be sold and give pleasure to the public. The money I earn doing this is a little help too.'

'I also go to a disabled club which has a committee of which I am the Secretary.'

2. James Bullock of Burns Drive, Corby, Northants, writes:—

'I am writing this in the hope that it will encourage other spastics to keep on trying at whatever they are able to do. My first interest in printing was to see if I had any skill in the use of my hands. Before that I had never attempted anything beyond letter writing.'

'The struggle I had was worthwhile because my interest in the work and ability to concentrate

grew together, and I felt I was being useful in the best way for myself and those like me. The help and encouragement I have had from The Spastics Society has always been a great help to me, and the money I have been able to earn has helped to make life more comfortable and enjoyable.'

'The feeling of independence and always having something to look forward to are two things needed for a happy life.'

3. Mavis Oxford, of Ambleside Drive, Southend, Essex, writes:—

'Speaking as one of the many people who cannot go out to work because of their disability, I would like to say how much the jewellery homework scheme has helped me. It has given me a new interest in life. The work is very pleasant to do. It has given me the chance to be more independent which I could not be before because no firm in my town would employ me, disabled as I am. Most important of all, the work enables me to earn a fair amount of money.'

'I have watched this homework scheme grow. I was one of the handful of workers when the scheme first started. Now I believe, the workers run into hundreds.'

'My thanks to the Society for making all this possible.'

Yorkshire Regional Conference at Harrogate— over 100 Attend

THE FIFTH YORKSHIRE Regional Conference was held on Sunday, 1st October, 1967, at the Hotel St. George, Harrogate. There were some 110 people present from all parts of Yorkshire and included in that number were members of groups, representatives of local Health, Welfare and Education Departments, members of the nursing, teaching and physiotherapy professions. Following the pattern of previous years the introduction of a theme was dispensed with in order to promote the inclusion of a wider variety of subjects in the programme to cater for varying interests.

Presiding over the Conference was Councillor L. Daley, a member of the *York City Council Welfare Committee*, who opened the proceedings by welcoming the delegates to Harrogate. He remarked that an interesting programme had been compiled and sincerely hoped that delegates would spend a pleasant and interesting day at the Conference, both socially and educationally.

Before presenting his annual report

the Chairman of the Regional Advisory Committee, Mr. J. W. Crosby, referred to the death last December of Dr. C. P. Stevens who was Director of the Society for a period of ten years, and announced that Mr. James Loring had been appointed Director.

Mr. Crosby then touched upon the work undertaken by the Committee during its second year of office and submitted brief details of developments in the Region. Particular references were made to the Leeds Work Centre which came into operation last December and was officially opened last July by Lady Masham. Grimston House Short Term Residential Care Centre for Children, situated just outside York, opened its doors last May and was officially opened during Yorkshire Spastics Week by Alexander W. Lyon, Esq., LL.B., M.P. The Goole and District Spastics Society acquired their own premises where a social and occupational club meets every Friday evening. Unfortunately, the Sheffield and District Spastics Society had

not yet been successful in obtaining a suitable site on which to build a work centre. Hopes had been raised again recently due to the offer of a site and negotiations were at present in progress. Mention was made of the Society's reappraisal of its financial position and a reminder was given that groups must do as much as possible to increase their fund-raising capacity. The Spastics Society had asked the Region to undertake a pilot scheme in the form of a 'Yorkshire Spastics Week' in which all groups had been invited to participate. The Week had been an outstanding success and groups taking part were warmly thanked for the time and efforts they had expended in organising the various activities. Congratulations were tendered to the Regional Officer for organising the Week and for the many hours of work he put in during the preceding six months. Mr. Crosby then expressed grateful thanks to members of groups and their committees for their efforts on behalf of spastics throughout the year.

During the morning session, Dr. Mary Seller, Ph.D., Lecturer in Experimental Biology, delivered a lecture on *Current Work of the Paediatric Research Unit*, which was illustrated with slides, depicting some interesting subjects. At the afternoon session, the speakers were Miss N. V. Culloty, M.C.S.P., Superintendent Physiotherapist at the Percy Hedley Centre for Spastics, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, whose subject was *Physiotherapy and Management in Cerebral Palsy*, and E. W. Potter, Esq., B.A., Headmaster, Holly Bank Special School for Spastics on *The Purpose of a Residential Special School for Physically Handicapped Children*. A vote of thanks to Councillor L. Daley, the speakers and Mr. R. J. F. Whyte, Regional Officer, who organised the Conference, was proposed by Mr. B. C. Robinson of the Dewsbury and District Spastics Society.

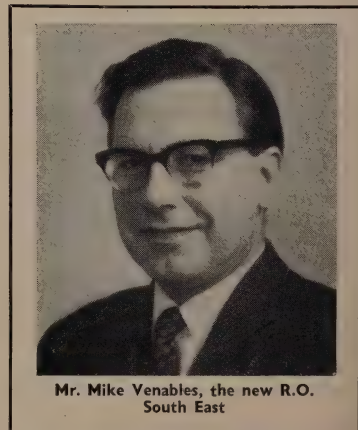
R.J.F.W.



These Harem- Scarem Girls are Slaves to Candyfloss

These three attractive young starlets from the local theatre came along to a Fête run by the Jersey Spastics Society

(Photo: Jersey Evening Post)



Mr. Mike Venables, the new R.O. South East

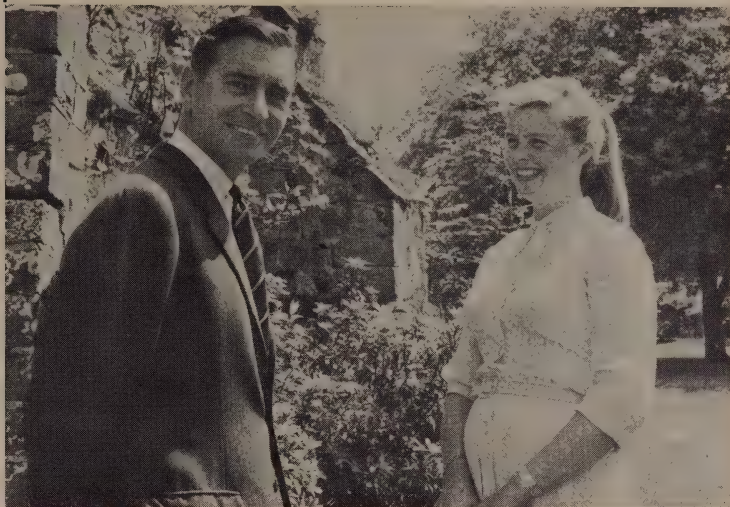
HICKSTEAD HOSPITALITY

'Yorkshire Spastics Week an Outstanding Success' says Mr. Crosby

'YORKSHIRE SPASTICS WEEK, which was held throughout the county from 18th to 23rd September, has been an outstanding success and I should like to say a big thank you to the warm hearted people of Yorkshire', said Mr. J. W. Crosby, Chairman of the Regional Advisory Committee, when recently addressing the audience at the fifth Annual Regional Conference. He continued, 'We are well pleased with what we have achieved for we seem to have created considerable interest in spastics, many people being unaware of the extent of the problems in the field of cerebral palsy and the great need for action'.

The idea to have a Yorkshire Spastics Week, to be run in conjunction with local groups, originated at a meeting of the Yorkshire Federation of Groups in June, 1966. The proposal was approved by the Regional Advisory Committee and given the blessing of the Regions and Group Co-ordinating Committee who suggested that a pilot scheme be undertaken in the region. The project was intended to be mainly of an educational nature, telling the public about cerebral palsy and what is being done in Yorkshire, rather than fulfilling a fund-raising function. Although groups would not therefore, be making a direct appeal for funds, it was hoped that the impact of the week would have a lasting effect and result in greater support for all aspects of their work in the future. Having given the historical background it is important to note that the venture was suggested by groups for the benefit of groups.

Needless to say the response of groups willing to participate in this experimental regional project was almost one hundred per cent in spite of the realisation that groundwork and organisation of events during the week would have to be carried



(Photo: The Field)

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Bunn seen in the charming garden of the Old Manor House at Hickstead, nr. Bolney, in Sussex. Mr. Bunn has most kindly agreed to allow a display by disabled riders at next year's Spring Event at his Derby Jumping Ground. Mr. Venables (seen opposite) will be making the arrangements

out locally, the onus inevitably falling upon members of their committees. Groups can now justifiably sit back and report 'mission accomplished' although the full regional picture is not yet complete at the time of going to press. It is, however, encouraging to be able to confirm that information received to date indicates that the week was successful, some groups having received substantial benefit from the publicity and financial angle. Open days at centres run by groups provided the opportunity for those interested to see what is being done to promote the welfare of spastics.

Many varied activities

Other activities included exhibitions, film shows, public meetings with guest speakers, coffee and sherry parties, fashion shows, street and house-to-house collections, bring and buy sales, youth festival and information material displays in shops and public libraries. A new booklet 'Yorkshire Cares for Spastics' illustrating the work undertaken for spastics in Yorkshire was specially printed and, along with other literature, was made available to all groups. At least 18,000 copies were distributed in group areas.

To present a comprehensive account of the week's diverse activities with its many ramifications would not be possible in the space allocated for this item but there are a few highlights to which refer-

ence must be made to convey the extent of the benefits received by some groups. In one town over 800 people saw the film 'What is a Spastic' which preceded three evening concerts, raising about £200. A coffee party made £120 and a bring and buy sale £135. Another group had the satisfaction of arranging a public meeting which was addressed by Miss Shirley Keene of The Spastics Society and attended by 100 members, mostly representatives of local voluntary organisations.

A Festival of Youth provided an opportunity for other youth groups, including the unhandicapped in the town, to enjoy the hospitality of the spastics youth group. Over 100 persons attended what was reported as being a resounding success. Upon hearing about Spastics Week, a group of boy scouts organised a walk and raised £30 for a group. A Work Centre was visited by 150 specially invited guests representing voluntary organisations and industry. Press publicity was effective and reached as far as small hamlets in the Yorkshire moors. A lady from that area offered her services to the nearest group.

After a week of great activity, hard work and, in some cases, excitement, the summing up of the Chairman of one of the groups in the region gave food for thought when he remarked 'Spastics Week has given my group a shot in the arm and rejuvenated us by creating a new interest among our members.'

AIDS and APPLIANCES for the HOME

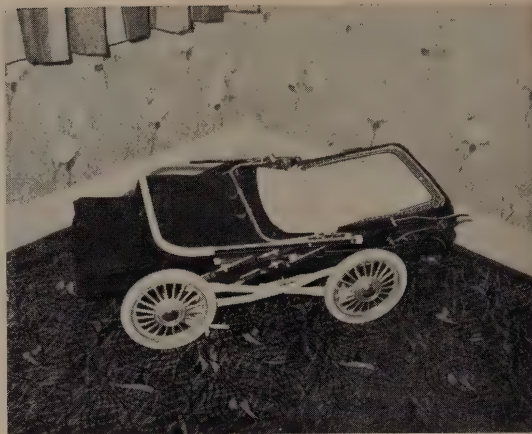


collapsible pram

This collapsible pram shown above left, upright and ready for use, and right, collapsed for storage or carriage in a car can now be lengthened (the body of the pram can be separated from the chassis quite easily too).

The extension measures 8in. long and looks like an extra storage compartment, which, of course, it can be used for when the baby is small. An optional extra is a shopping tray that fits onto the chassis under the body.

A conversion to a new pram bought from his works can be done by Mr. Seal



of Beard Bros. Ltd., 111/121 Cricklewood, Broadway, N.W.2, for £22 5s. 0d. complete. (The normal retail price of a 'Compact' is £17 17s. 0d.)

Dimensions after conversion:—42in. long, 15in. wide, 8½in. deep. Folded for storage with wheels attached:—44in. by 23in. by 12in.

Compiled
by

N. D. B. ELWES

a sturdy hammock-rest chair

This Hammock Seat slung from headrest to under the knees is the latest development by Amesbury Surgical Appliances Limited, South Mill Road, Amesbury, Wilts.

Although the Hammock is curved, Mr. Goldthorp tells me that it can be made with a right angle back seat. Here the Hammock Seat is shown slung in the Model 'S' Relaxing chair. This model as with the first designs of Mr. Goldthorp, is made of wood because 'there is nothing that stands up to the incontinent child so well as wood'.

The Hammock Seat must only be prescribed in consultation with a physio-therapist or wheelchair prescribing specialist as the curved back could be very detrimental to treatment.

The Social Worker writes to me of Denise shown here:—

'Denise is said to laugh and look about her when placed in the chair, which would indicate a sense of well-being, though she is not able to express herself verbally, and we feel that other parents of severely handicapped children might also be glad of this newly-designed appliance.

We feel that this new chair gives just sufficient support without forcing the child into an unnatural position'.

This seat can be fitted into all Amesbury Models and Ministry Wheelchairs, 13C plus 8C. Please show this picture to your specialist if you feel your child could benefit by this Hammock Seat.



United We Stand

AN ASSOCIATION OF '62 CLUBS was officially proposed and accepted unanimously by all of the twenty-eight Clubs present at the conclusion of the second International '62 Clubs' Conference. Mr. Hargreaves explained when he addressed the meeting of two hundred delegates that, in order to bring an Association into effect, there had, of course, to be some formal resolutions. These resolutions, together with the proposed constitution were then discussed at length, with many of the delegates having a chance to air their own views and opinions.

The proposed constitution which had already been circulated was then amended accordingly:—

- a) In paragraph 2 (objects) Item 'c' 'to encourage people with other disabilities, to join the '62 Club movement'.
- b) In paragraph 6 to read 'One nominee member of every Club of the affiliated '62 Clubs shall be entitled to be present and that there shall be one vote for each Club'.
- c) Subscription. It was agreed that subscriptions should be a mini-

mum of 1s. per member, both full and associate of their Club. Such sum to be decided by the Committee.

It was unanimously agreed that the present Advisory Panel should remain in office for the first term and that other members should be co-opted up to the number required under the constitution, and that the President of the Association should invite all Clubs to nominate persons they felt were able to carry on the work involved with the Association, subject to the Advisory Panel selecting co-opted members from amongst the nominations received.

Owing to the great interest being shown in the movement from abroad, the meeting felt that the interested parties should be invited to apply for membership.

And so, our third Conference came to a highly rewarding and successful conclusion. I will not attempt to elaborate further upon the Conference, but I will leave you to draw your own conclusions from the following contributions.

Reproductions of all the papers presented, will, in due course, be published separately in book form.

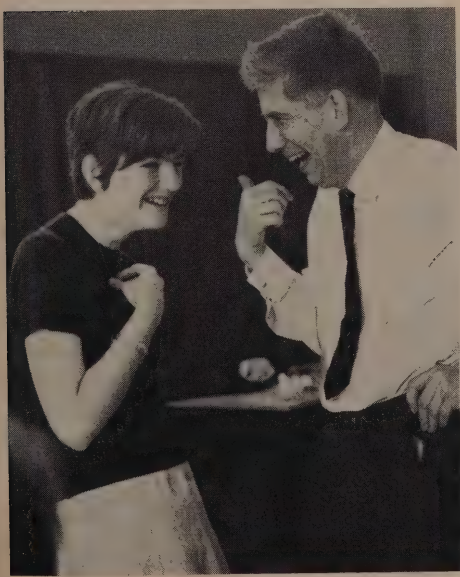
'62 CLUBS SUPPLEMENT

November issue—1967

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experiment that came off at
Woodlarks Camp

Photographs by
John Bundock and
Bill Hargreaves



AMONG THOSE PRESENT

(Left) Helen Keeney (London) had a joke in common with Dr. Ron Firman (Nottingham). Above, Marianne West (second from left at the back) was looking after some delegates from Holland and Poland



'62 Clubs

Mr. Burn talks to the delegates at the dinner

A New Experience

IT WAS FOR ME an experience of such a new and different kind, that I felt almost overwhelmed by the occasion rather than being able to face it using my powers of reasoning for a critical survey.

The first thing that impressed me was the quiet assurance of the spastic people in this social Conference environment, and their readiness to participate in the proceedings.

Another cause for congratulation was the simplicity with which our party of spastic people were received, particularly the aids and facilities that were made available (e.g. ramps and wheelchairs) that are so often lacking in Italy.

These meetings are indispensable because they are instrumental in making society aware of our needs. The efforts put into the organization of the Conference were considerable. We have learnt very much and most of all, have had many exchanges of ideas and opportunities to make many new friends.

Prof. Gianluigi Zaina (Milan).

Exchange of Ideas

THE CONFERENCE, in my opinion, was very interesting and useful because it gave me the opportunity of getting information on what has been achieved, or is going to be achieved, in various countries, in order to have handicapped people participate actively in social life and in the world of labour.

These interviews and exchange of ideas allow those countries whose progress in the above fields are poor, to be informed about recent achievements, and more progressive countries to reach even higher goals. The only fault I could see with the Conference, was the amount of work to be got through in such a short time. This inconvenience, may be unavoidable, did not allow us to carry out longer debates on some of the most interesting themes. Perhaps, also the number of participants should be restricted by selecting the more qualified persons. In such a way the work would be more fruitful.

Furthermore it should be very helpful to receive, at the end of the Conference, written reports of the various speeches.

Giancleto Faravelli (Genoa).

Observations from Abroad

Dear Sir, How are You?

I was very pleased to have had a fortunate chance to attend the Second International '62 Club Conference and to have had a very good time.

Through all your discussion and lodging, I could have felt and have accepted your active, cheerful and friendly atmosphere. I was very impressed to have heard that all of arrangements and management for this successful conference were done by almost only the spastics themselves.

I agree this one of '62 Club's purports that they should firstly prove their abilities to do a lot of things and then invite other people to mix or require other people to give positions in social activities. I think this spirit is the most important in order to get development. I intend to tell, when I go back home, spastics people in Japan about this Conference, showing pictures.

Everywhere, spastic people have complicated and difficult problems, even though the characters of these problems are different by each circumstance. But, I hope, you will overcome them, pursue your healthy lives and grasp your happiness.

Yours sincerely, TSUTOMU IKEDA, Japan.

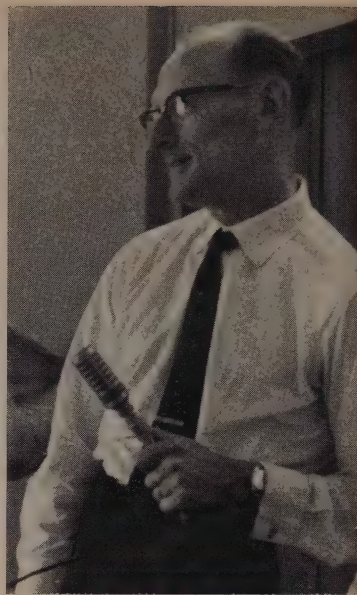
Arnhem Village Community

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY IN HOLLAND is mainly a society of parents of spastic children. In recent years, however, attention has been paid to the problems of the older spastics in social life. The Dutch Spastics Society has about 1,700 members.

Five years ago there was a great initiative to raise money for a centre where severely handicapped people (all kinds of handicaps) could live in independence.

There was a T.V. programme of 24 hours on this theme and on people giving money to realise this centre. The result was £2,400,000. Now we find near Arnhem, the community known as 'THE VILLAGE' where 75 people are already living in their own apartments—bed-living room and bathroom with washing-table, and a little garden. A total population of 425 people is planned, nearly all of them wheelchair patients.

To them would an isolated community there is in 'THE VILLAGE' a shopping-centre where the people from the 'normal houses' also have to come at the other



The Club Organiser, Bill Hargreaves, at the microphone

side of the road. So there is a continuous stream of human relations between normal and handicapped people.

Dr. J. M. Lips, (Holland).

English Spastics Have Faith

THE MOST INTERESTING CONFERENCE I have ever participated in was this one, organised by the British Spastics Society at Reading University. The only regret was my staying there for only three days, otherwise the interesting experience and the knowledge I gained would have been much greater. I thank very much all of the people who let me have the opportunity of meeting English spastics and those from the other countries there present, such as A.I.A.S., and I would like to send special thanks to the interpreters who did so much work for us in the three days. The subject was 'Spastics and the Welfare State', and as you will imagine it was not a simple one, because it included all the aspects of a spastic's life in society.

They recalled the various problems which have not yet been solved by the spastics; they stressed the importance of the Government's help in the fields of education, employment, transportation, and the elimination—as far as possible—of architectural barriers. The most interesting questions I listened to were the foundation of new special schools or, far better, the organization of normal schools in such a way as to allow handicapped people also to attend them. On the subject of employment, laws should be enacted that would allow compulsory

employment of handicapped people who get a technical training or come from the workshops and are able to work on special machines. With much interest I saw spastics drive adapted cars with normal number-plate.

But what impressed me most was the faith English spastics have in their future, a faith they have gained because they are sure about the existence of a right to life. Certainly they, too, have all of our problems, as every spastic in the world, but they are able to face them more serenely. I wish these meetings would be held more frequently because I think they are very useful for an exchange of opinions and experiences among the various delegations.

Giuseppe Pambianco (Rome).

Education and After

John Le Prevost

THE SOCIETY'S EDUCATION OFFICER, Mr. John LePrevost, gave a wide-ranging and thought-provoking address, in which he tried to assess and describe the true objects of education.

He went beyond the conventional definition that enshrines the idea of 'an ampler future for all' and instead quoted the term '*Paideia*' which 'is rather the task of giving form to the act of living itself'.

In this sense, the symbolic figure of Justice, blindfold and with a balance in one hand and an upraised sword in the other, expresses the situation of every single being; everyone, handicapped or not has to make decisions, small and large, every day, every hour of the day. To achieve the right one, a balance must be struck between dreams and reality, heart and head.

Civilisation has mitigated the rigours of natural selection but the days of 'conscious selection' are far off. The role of the Educator is to regulate the interplay of forces; freedom and discipline, family and school, without blunting that questing curiosity, that sense of wonder that impels man to explore the riddles of the universe.

He concluded by asking delegates some very pertinent questions, such as, were examinations worthwhile? Schools, segregated or not? Do parents and teachers deal too softly with handicapped people?

APOLOGY

We should like to point out that in the photograph published in the July Supplement of Mr. Woodrow presenting a silver cup, it was Miss Janice Hancock who was receiving it.

Total Responsibility—

AN EXPERIMENT THAT CAME OFF

AT THE '62 CLUB CAMP held at the beginning of September we tried to see how far Club Members could take on the entire responsibility of organising our own activities.

Chiefly this concerned cooking which at previous camps had been supervised by Mrs. Hargreaves. This time we tried to see how far we could manage without her supervision. To a great degree this was entirely successful. Only once or twice did Mary, as she put it, 'feel she was needed'. This says a lot for the spastic people who made this experiment work.

The activities were highly successful, and culminated in a barn dance which nobody thought originally we could attempt. A five-mile walk or rather 'amble' was undertaken during one afternoon. During the evenings we had 'Any Questions', whist drives, ghost stories around the camp fire, and pop sessions.

The camping holidays have done it again! Two happy marriages already, the latest of which was between Tony Ellis of Tiverton, and Barbara Bayton of New



John Sunderland—a Scotsman makes the porridge!

Malden, Surrey. They met at a '62 Club Camp on two occasions and were married on 9th September. We wish them every happiness.

We now have to congratulate our Assistant Club Organiser, Pam Metherell, who has just announced her engagement to Kenneth Annal from Nottingham, whom she met at the last two camps.

Pam and Ken are marrying on 16th December in London, and will live in Nottingham.

The 'Bill Hargreaves Marriage Bureau' seems to be working overtime!



No peeling—No spuds for lunch—so everyone did their own

Shirley Slams 'Chocolates' Syndrome at Durham Meeting

THE NORTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE and Annual General Meeting was held on 14th October, 1967, in the Senate Room of the Old Shire Hall, Durham City. This Hall was a delightful setting in the old traditional atmosphere.

The meeting was opened by the Mayor, Councillor J. C. Williamson, who was introduced by Mr. D. S. Hewet, Chairman of the Regional Advisory Committee.

One of the speakers was Miss Shirley Keene, who, as a spastic herself, was able to stress the acceptability of spastics in society. Her talk was extremely well received, an extract of which follows, to emphasise the problems of a spastics:— 'Somehow we must inveigle ourselves into the position of not always being on the receiving end; to evolve ways of helping others and going to them. I know we are not often permitted to give and sometimes I feel that the whole world is convinced that cerebral palsy can be cured by administering vast boxes of chocolates, etc.—however, we must seek to give what and when we can and fulfil ourselves as whole personalities. You are a very lopsided character otherwise'.

Lunch was taken in the reception hall, and the first speaker in the afternoon was Dr. J. Leiper, M.B.E., T.D., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., County Medical Officer for Cumberland, and the subject of this talk was Local Authorities and Voluntary Organisations.

At 2.45 p.m., the third speaker was Dr. J. Rubie, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.C.P., whose topic was 'The Medical Aspects of Cerebral Palsy.'

A vote of thanks was passed to all speakers and to those who had helped to make the Conference such a success, by Mr. J. D. Herd, Chairman of the Cumberland and Westmorland Spastics Society. Seventy-three attended the meeting and all praised the speakers for the excellent topics which they had chosen.

The Annual General Meeting followed at 4.15 p.m., and the Chairman, Mr. D. S. Hewet, gave his annual report and thanked all the members for their untiring efforts during the year. The election of officers followed and the members for the Regional Advisory Committee for the ensuing year will be as follows:—Miss A. M. Reid, Mr. J. Carr Humphreys, O.B.E., Mr. S. F. Darke, Mr. J. D. Herd, Mr. D. S. Hewet, Mr. A. W. Martin.

H.H.W.



Members of Horsham Round Table at Ingfield Manor, watching George Thompson operating a new Danish electric typewriter specially designed for the handicapped. The enlarged keyboard enables the children to operate it with their feet or with rods attached to their head band, or even their elbows

TRIBUTE TO FRIENDS OF PONDS

A TRIBUTE TO THE Friends of Ponds was made by the Warden of Ponds Home. Speaking at the Northern Home Counties conference held there, Mrs. C. Brown said how indebted she was for all the money and effort the Friends had put into establishing the Home—they were its backbone, she said.

For the first ten years—the Home was founded in 1955—they had made up the annual deficit, but now they turned their attention to providing items of equipment, like the 'Possum' machine. Another group had provided the indoor swimming pool.

New Target

This year they had a new target, she said. There was the planned £12,000 hostel, which would help some of the less handicapped members of the family to lead a more normal and independent life.

Both the Home's relations with its friends and with the county council were held up as examples by the directors of the society, said Mrs. Brown.

The conference was opened by Brig. Sir Henry Floyd, Lord Lieutenant of Bucks, and Dr. A. W. Pringle, Aylesbury area medical officer, spoke on "Social services". (Bucks Free Press)

'Research will Continue'

Mr. D. Lancaster-Gaye

UNLESS RADICAL CHANGES take place, The Spastics Society will be unable to build any more new establishments in two years' time due to a shortage of money.

This was the warning given by the society's Assistant Director Services, Mr. D. Lancaster-Gaye, speaking at the training school for spastics at Meldreth.

He was addressing 100 delegates from five counties at the society's East Anglia region annual conference.

Mr. Lancaster-Gaye said that because of a cut in finances the society had to choose between continuing research work and 'filling in the gaps' in present facilities. Continuation of the research programme had been chosen.

The right course was to bring pressure on the Government to improve the situation, he stressed. Otherwise, up to 30 centres for young spastics could not be developed there would be no more schools for them. (Cambridge Independent)

S.O.S. news

STARS ORGANISATION FOR SPASTICS

Jean Aubrey very kindly came with me to the Fox Inn, Longstowe, near Cambridge, this month, to knock over a £15 pile of pennies, his Beacon collection brought the total sum collected to £100 in just under 3 years. The landlord, Mr. George Stubbs and his wife, hope to continue their collecting by special money raising efforts which in the past have included the sale of small paintings by Mrs. Stubbs. A large proportion of the money collected by Miss Aubrey was the result of proceeds from an auction of harvest festival produce.

* * *

For the fourth successive year a darts league competition has been organised by Mr. Stocker of the Woldingham Village Club, on behalf of the Croydon Group and the S.O.S. Sylvia Syms visited the Club on a wet Friday evening recently to accept the S.O.S. donation and Mr. Pearce, a well-known member of the Croydon Group, received the Group's cheque for £50. Sylvia thanked all those participating for their splendid efforts which she hoped they would continue.



(Photo: Croydon Advertiser)

ALAN FREEMAN AT COOMBE FARM: When Alan opened a fête at Coombe Farm, he was presented with this mosaic coffee-table, made by Jill Watkins, looking very smart in her electric wheelchair. £400 was raised to be devoted partly to buying a Possum, and partly towards buying a mini-bus



(Photo: John Grant)

CHARLES HAWTRY IN PORTSMOUTH: Charles, in dark glasses, seen at a beacon knock-over at the Spread Eagle in Portsmouth, with the landlord, Mr. Forster

Swiss Holiday—

even the Rangers weren't prepared for this says ANNE PEARCE

SEVENTEEN severely handicapped Rangers plus their young helpers flew to Switzerland in August for a fortnight's holiday. This was the first experience of flying for most of us.

The Girl Guide movement's motto is to be prepared for anything. To take seventeen Rangers in wheelchairs is no exception.

We went on outings every other day. It was arranged this way so that there was a day in between to recuperate. We saw the most beautiful sights of Switzerland as we travelled by coach, car, train, steamer, chair-lifts, cable-cars and even a pony and cart.

One of the trips I enjoyed most was the cable-car up and down the mountains. We went up on the cable-chairs to the mountain called The Schilthone, where we had a packed lunch and admired the beautiful scenery. The snow looked lovely on top of the mountains with the sun shining on them. As we came back down the mountains in two cable-cars we ran into a storm. While everyone screamed with horror I was leaping out of my chair with excitement. This was the experience of my life. The cable-car stopped in mid-air and swayed from side

to side with the rain coming in. I happened to say to someone as we were changing cable-cars, 'I hope it happens again'. As luck would have it the cable-car did stop again. We were still very high up from the ground, however we finished our journey in one piece.

We stayed in a hostel on Lake Thun. We were able to take rowing boats out on the lake. This gave us a chance to do some rowing ourselves. Nobody was left behind in Lake Thun although it was a near thing sometimes.

The weather was kind to us and we returned to England with a lovely sun tan, and it is tan not dirt.

We visited our Guide Chalet by going up the mountains riding on chair-lifts and in a milk float, sitting in our own chairs. Going up and down a chair-lift is an experience and is worth a try. Everything seems so beautiful and peaceful at this height. I just wondered what I would do if I dropped my shoes.

As I look back through my log book which I had kept daily during the fortnight, I realise what a wonderful holiday we did have and it wouldn't have been possible without the many volunteer helpers who deserve a sincere vote of thanks.



Please address your letters to:
**The Editor, Spastics News,
 The Spastics Society,
 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1.,
 and print your address clearly
 at the end of the letter. There is
 10s. 6d. for each letter published
 sent by a spastic.**

RAY LEARNT TO DRIVE

Dear Editor,

I feel I must write to you about Ray's achievement. When he left Dene Park, Further Education Centre, he could not settle down indoors, he wanted to get out. His ambition has always been to drive but his disability seemed to be very much against him. But as soon as he reached 18, he persuaded me to go with him to the hospital to see the doctor about going to the Nottingham M.O.H. centre for a test to see if he could have a Ministry vehicle. I am afraid the doctor was not easily convinced and it took quite a lot of persuasion on my part as well as Ray's before he finally consented.

Ray duly arrived at Nottingham where he was tested on an electrically propelled car but the doctor said he would not be able to have one because he was not steady enough. This did not deter Ray, he decided to get an old one if possible to practice with. We managed to pick up an old one for £5 and we tried all sorts of modifications on it until we found what suited Ray best. As his left hand is affected we had to find out which way he could work his clutch. As he cannot walk I was a bit worried as to whether he could control a foot clutch. (This he proved he could, we found out, by him controlling the pedal on the bumper cars at the fair and the motor boats on the lakes at the seaside.) After three weeks he was able to go round the block on his own, but as the old tricycle had no starter and had to be started by a pull-up hand starter he could not go far away in case he stalled the engine.



Ray Coulson, pictured in his tricycle holding the Oxford D.D.A.'s Driving Test Cup

Anyway luck smiled on him. A kind person who saw how hard he was trying and how well he was doing decided to let him have an A.C. for £150, and let him pay for it £2 per week. We altered this to suit him, and he passed his driving test first time within six months. Now, one year exactly from the date of passing his test, he drove from Northampton to Oxford, entered the Oxford D.D.A. Club's Rally and came back with the Driving Test Cup, after competing with some very tough competition.

The Ministry have taken the maintenance of his tricycle over, by the way, about three months after passing the test. I hope this will be an incentive for any one else who may want to try to drive.

Yours sincerely, A. F. COULSON, 27 Sandringham Road, Northampton.

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John Anthony Davies

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THIEVES STOLE A RAZOR

Dear Editor,

I went to Prestatyn Holiday Camp, North Wales, on 9th September to 16th September, when the camp was full of disabled from all parts of the country.

I am a spastic and my wife is disabled by polio, we both have invalid cars and travelled to the camp in them.

I enjoy singing and went to the camp for this purpose.

On the Tuesday evening our chalet was ransacked and the thief stole my Philips Electric Razor; this really spoilt the holiday we had both looked forward to all the summer.

I couldn't sing the same, and we couldn't settle after this happened. Being a spastic I find it difficult to shave with a safety razor so I shall have to save up for another one.

The security people at the camp didn't

even report this incident to Prestatun police because we went to them to seek advice, and they didn't know anything about it.

This shows negligence on the part of the security at the camp. We never heard any more. Many of the disabled were taken ill with a stomach upset, on the last day, which was most unfortunate.

So this was a disappointing holiday for many.

Yours sincerely, LEONARD BURTON, 5 Windsor Avenue, Little Hulton, Worsley, nr. Manchester.

GOOD RESPONSE

Dear Editor,

As a result of a paragraph in SPASTICS NEWS regarding our special envelopes over-printed with 'Please Help Spastics', I received enquiries from 24 Groups, 12 of which resulted in order for 1,000 envelopes each. Two more orders are in course of printing.

Yours sincerely, G. H. BRACEWELL (Manager), The Spastics Centre, Worthing, Littlehampton & District Spastics Society, 2 Rectory Road, Worthing.

LIFE WITH GERALDINE

Dear Editor,

Geraldine and I are both in the same place and we help each other. In the morning, I get up at eight o'clock, then I go in the hall to wait for Geraldine to come down, afterwards we have a talk, then I go for my breakfast. After a little while Geraldine comes down for breakfast, when she gets near to the door, then I tell her which way to the table, and I tell her what she has got for breakfast, and I say to her 'you have got two pieces of bread on your left'. When the tea pot comes on our table, I say to Geraldine, 'keep back' because she might burn herself, then I say to her, 'you have got a full cup on your right'.

After breakfast, we go outside for a walk around and I tell Geraldine which way to go.

One day, Geraldine wanted me to teach her to tie knots, so I got a piece of rope, and gave it to her. She wanted me to teach her how to do a clove hitch.

In the afternoon, we go in the workshop, and Geraldine brings her brail dominoes down, and then we play some games. On Monday, Wednesday and also Friday afternoons, we have handcraft. Geraldine is doing canework, I am doing drawing.

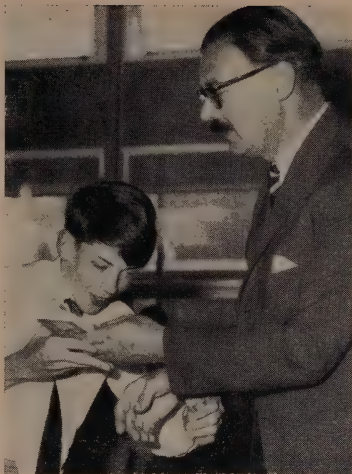
Yours faithfully, MR. R. LANGFORD, Eldridge House, Feltham, Middlesex.

(Geraldine is blind.—Editor)

BOTH SIDES OF THE COIN

Dear Editor,

I have seen no letter to show the other-side of the coin re the Cri de coeur of Mrs. X (SPASTICS NEWS, Sept.).



Mr. J. F. G. Emms presented the prizes at Craig-y-Parc this year. He had attended the School Day with Mrs. Emms

People! Some do talk to my son but when his reply is so long in coming, turn to me. Does he take sugar in his tea? Is he getting on? Isn't it sad, etc., etc.

Modern life has to slow up for the spastic, you need to stop, think and listen. If he was alongside an M.H. he wouldn't be given the chance. The general public do not believe you when you say he is as mentally alert as you or I, Oh! they smile, then shout at him as tho' he were deaf.

The more intelligent a spastic the heavier his load is to carry, the greater the frustrations.

Children the world over copy each other and for a physically handicapped to copy expressions of a mentally handicapped kiddy is only going to be detrimental to him or her.

I do not think it helpful for my son to go to school or public functions with the M.H. and I do know both sides of the coin, as a friend of mine has a mentally handicapped kiddy whom I do look after occasionally when my friend goes out.

She has many little ways that are a delight to us. I will help all I can, I am her Godmother.

Yours sincerely, PAMELA PEARSON (Mrs.), Orchard Cottage, Eastergate, Sussex.

PEN FRIENDS

Dear Editor,

I have been reading your magazine SPASTICS NEWS, and as I have a spastic son myself I was very interested in its contents.

The main reason for my writing to you, is to ask if it would be possible for you to find a pen friend for me, preferably the mother of a spastic.

My son is nearly 23 years old, he has no speech, but we are able to communicate reasonably well by sign language, he is a walker, and is quite alert and bright in many other ways.

I am almost 50 years old myself and of English descent. Both my parents came from England, but met and married here. My husband is of Scottish descent, as our name would suggest.

Yours sincerely, ALINE L. MACKIESON, (Mrs.), 27 Matthieson St., Highett 3190, Victoria, Australia.

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Mr. D. C. Freemantle

THE NEW R.O. FOR MANCHESTER

MR. D. C. FREEMANTLE was appointed Regional Officer for Manchester as from 1st September. He is 35, married with three young sons.

Mr. Freemantle was at Quintin Grammar School in London, and trained at the National College of Rubber Technology. He has travelled widely on business including visits to Pakistan, Kenya, Mexico and the U.S. He has been based in Manchester, Liverpool and Scotland.

He is keenly interested in social work and welfare and his hobbies are boxing and tennis. We wish him well in his new appointment.

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RESIGNATIONS

Mr. I. C. R. Archibald, the West Midland R.O., Mr. V. P. Devonport, Warden of Jacques Hall, and Mr. Stan Cox, Homework Dept., also Miss E. Fifield the Manageress of the Arundel Private Hotel,

EQUIPMENT NOTES PLANNED

AT A MEETING of the Society's Staff Equipment Group at Ingfield Manor, Mr. Lancaster-Gaye envisaged that there would be few big residential centres opened in the future. Instead, he thought that smaller homes could be specially adapted to enable spastics to look after themselves as far as possible.

The Staff Equipment Group should now begin collecting information on the best type of equipment for toilet areas, bedrooms and living rooms, besides educational and clinical needs.

Over the years the Society had acquired valuable experience in building design and equipment for specialist needs. It was intended to publish a series of notes dealing with the design of buildings for the handicapped and listing recommended equipment. The notes would then be made available free of charge to local authorities.

THEY ALL LIKED IT

Many appreciative letters were received about the October Special Equestrian Issue of SPASTICS NEWS, in particular the Duchess of Norfolk, and Sir Ludwig Guttman were kind enough to write and say how interesting they had found it.

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EMPLOYMENT NEWS



(Photo: Kent Messenger)

THE M.E.V. (SOUTH) AT MAIDSTONE: Mrs. Winifred Goodchild, the Mayor of Maidstone, visiting the Society's exhibition vehicle, with Mr. R. Allan and Mr. L. Inkster in attendance. The tours are now over, but it was a successful season of propaganda for the Society

RONALD ARNDELL from Aberdare, is now working at Dunlops in Hirwaun.

PAUL BRITTON from Fordingbridge, has been employed for some time as a road sweeper for the local council.

ANN BROOMFIELD from Manchester, is doing general clerical work for Messrs. Marshall Ward's Credit Agency.

PAUL ECCLESTON from Allestree, who trained at Sherrards, is now employed by Qualcast of Derby.

LESLIE GRAHAM from Heywood, who trained at Sherrards, has commenced employment with a firm in Chadderton as a general woodwork machinist.

ROBERT HALL from Enfield Lock, has changed his job and is now doing machine work for Messrs. Nucky Scott & Co. Ltd.

EDWARD HEMMINGS from Cheltenham, who has worked for Dowty Seals since 1961 has changed his job after moving to another address in Cheltenham he is now employed on messenger duties at Government Communications Headquarters.

DAVID LANE from Abertillery, has started work at Brynmawr in the factory of Dunlop Semtex Ltd. (Manufacturers of Thermoplastic Floor Coverings).

LINDA LAWREY from Plymouth, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is now working in the Accounts Department at Radio Rentals in Chiswick, and is living in a Y.W.C.A. hostel nearby.

PAUL NIGHTINGALE from Peterborough, is working as a stock control clerk for a firm of Motor Spares suppliers.

PHILIP RULE from Wood Green, who was married to **BARBARA READ** of Friern Barnet in March of this year, has been working for some time in a new job as relief switchboard operator at the local Ministry of Labour offices.

JACQUELINE SMITH from Rawtenstall who trained at Sherrards, has commenced employment with a firm in Halifax (Victoria Wire Works), where she is working on a small machine for forming wires.

SALLY WASHBOURNE from Walsingham, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre and has successfully completed a course in comptometer operating, is now employed in this capacity by a firm of wholesale bakers in Ipswich.

ANN WHITE from South Ockendon, is working as an assistant cook at the local hospital.

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER ●●●

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 4th Elvington Workmen's Club, Elvington, Dover | J. Gardner |
| 4th St. George's Cons. Club, Churton Street, Victoria, S.W.2 | J. Rea |
| 6th Worcester City Police Club, Worcester | J. Gardner and J. Spencer |
| 7th Hoylake Cons. Club, The Grange, Hoylake, Cheshire | J. Gardner and J. Rea |
| 7th Netley British Legion Club, Netley Abbey, Southampton | J. Spencer |
| 8th Wellfield Workmen's Club, Prince Street, Rochdale, Lancs. | J. Gardner and J. Rea |
| 8th Woolston Cons. Club, St. Anne's Road, Woolston, Southampton | J. Spencer |
| 9th English Martyrs Men's Club, Preston, Lancs. | J. Gardner and J. Rea |
| 9th Central Club, South Coast Road, Peacehaven, Sussex | J. Spencer |
| 10th Harpurhey Cons. Club, Rochdale Road, Manchester | J. Gardner and J. Rea |
| 10th Constitution Club, Queens Gardens, Eastbourne | J. Spencer |
| 11th Hurst Green Club, London Road, Hurst Green, Sussex | J. Spencer and H. Holt |
| 13th Brockhouse Social Club, Harvills Hawthorn, West Bromwich | J. Gardner and J. Spencer |
| 13th Tempest Cons. Club, Drighlington, nr. Bradford | J. Rea |
| 14th Woodheys Club, Washway Road, Sale, Cheshire | J. Rea |
| 14th Tile Hill Social Club, Tile Hill North, Coventry | J. Gardner and J. Spencer |
| 15th Lightbowne Liberal Club, Kenyon Lane, Moston, Manchester | J. Rea |
| 15th Premier Billiards Club, Gold Street, Northampton | J. Gardner and J. Spencer |
| 16th Bromford Club, Eardington, Birmingham | J. Gardner and J. Spencer |
| 16th Whitworth Workmen's Club, Market Street, Whitworth, nr. Rochdale | J. Rea |
| 17th Memorial Club, Market Street, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Cheshire | J. Rea |
| 17th Nu-way Social Club, Vines Lane, Droitwich, Worcs. | J. Gardner and J. Spencer |
| 20th New Moston Club, Parkfield Road, Moston, Manchester | J. Gardner and J. Rea |
| 20th Burley Liberal Club, Burley Road, Leeds 4 | J. Spencer |
| 21st Heaton Norris Cons. Club, Short Street, Stockport | J. Gardner and J. Rea |
| 21st Palatine Club, Waterfoot, Rossendale, Lancs. | J. Rea |
| 22nd Fleetwood Cons Club, Lowther Road, Fleetwood, Lancs. | J. Gardner and J. Rea |
| 22nd Cons. Club, Regent Buildings, Kirkby in Ashfield, Notts. | J. Spencer and K. Kennerley |
| 23rd Leigh Labour Club, Abbey Street, Leigh, Lancs. | J. Gardner and J. Rea |
| 23rd Smithills Cons. Club, Chorley Old Road, Bolton | J. Spencer |
| 24th British Legion Club, School Lane, Leyland, Lancs. | J. Gardner and J. Rea |
| 27th Inglemire Club, Inglemire Lane, Hull | J. Rea |
| 28th Lincoln Liberal Club, St. Swithins Square, Lincoln | J. Rea |
| 29th Lansdowne Club, New Bedford Road, Luton | J. Gardner and H. Holt |
| 29th Central Workmen's Club, Western Road, Wolverton, Bucks. | J. Gardner and K. Kennerley |
| 29th Roundhay Cons. Club, Sutherland Avenue, Roundhay, Leeds | J. Rea |
| 30th Cons. Club, Broadway, Sheerness, Kent | J. Gardner and J. Spencer |
| 30th Pellon Social Club, Moor End Road, Pellon, Halifax | J. Rea |

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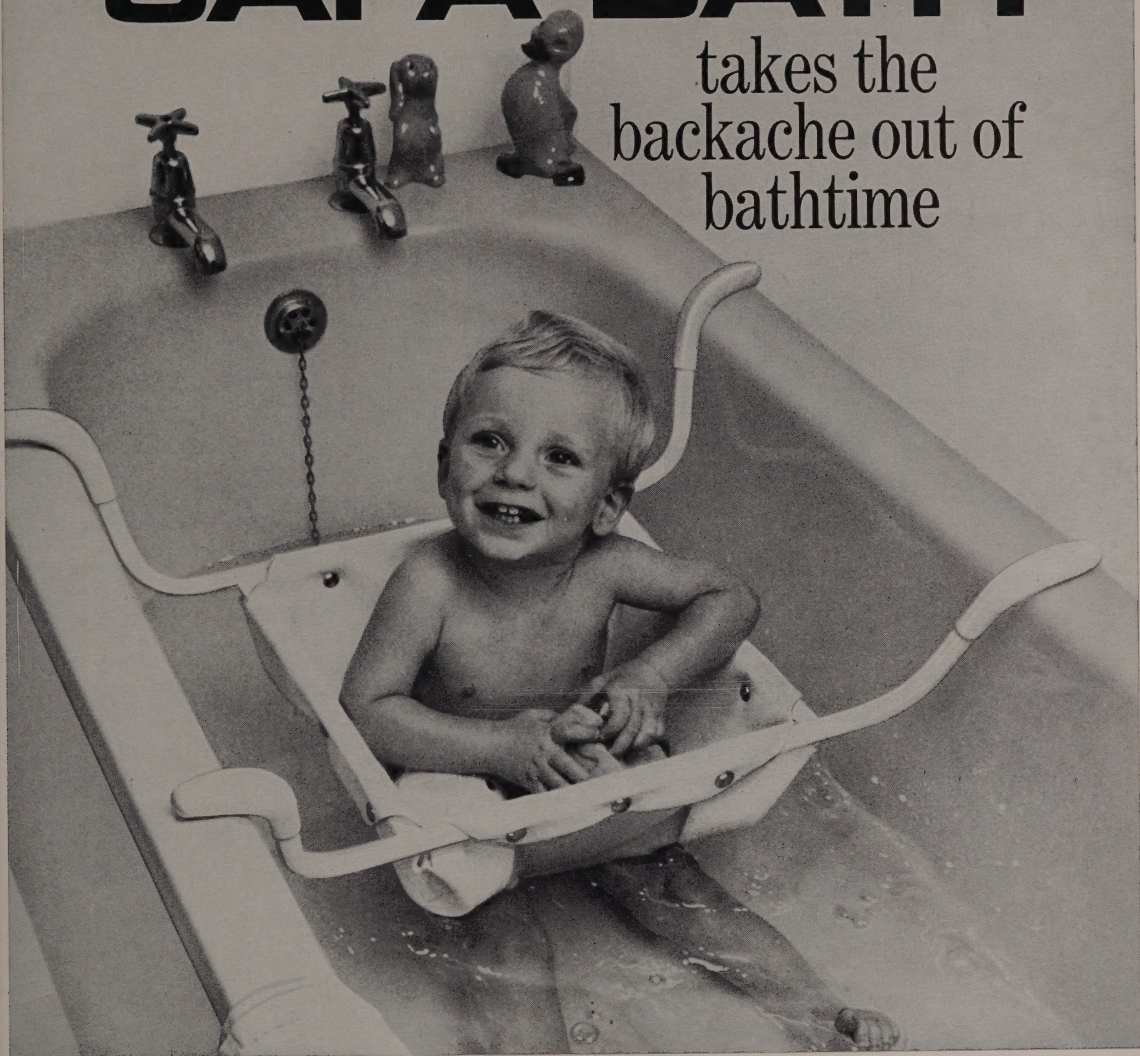
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SPECIAL WALL VANITY UNIT AT INGFIELD



The Society's Staff Equipment Group went into the problem of dressing tables for dormitories, and came up with this convenient and attractive solution. This one is 4 ft. wide and provides a drawer and shelf for three girls—and of course a mirror. Cut away for easy access, the prototype worked out at Ingfield cost about £15, but later models would be less. Miss Varty reports that her senior girls are delighted with it.